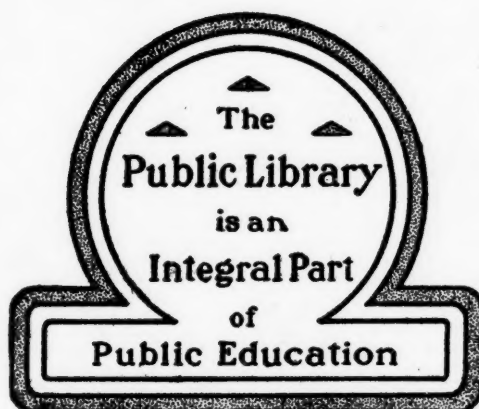


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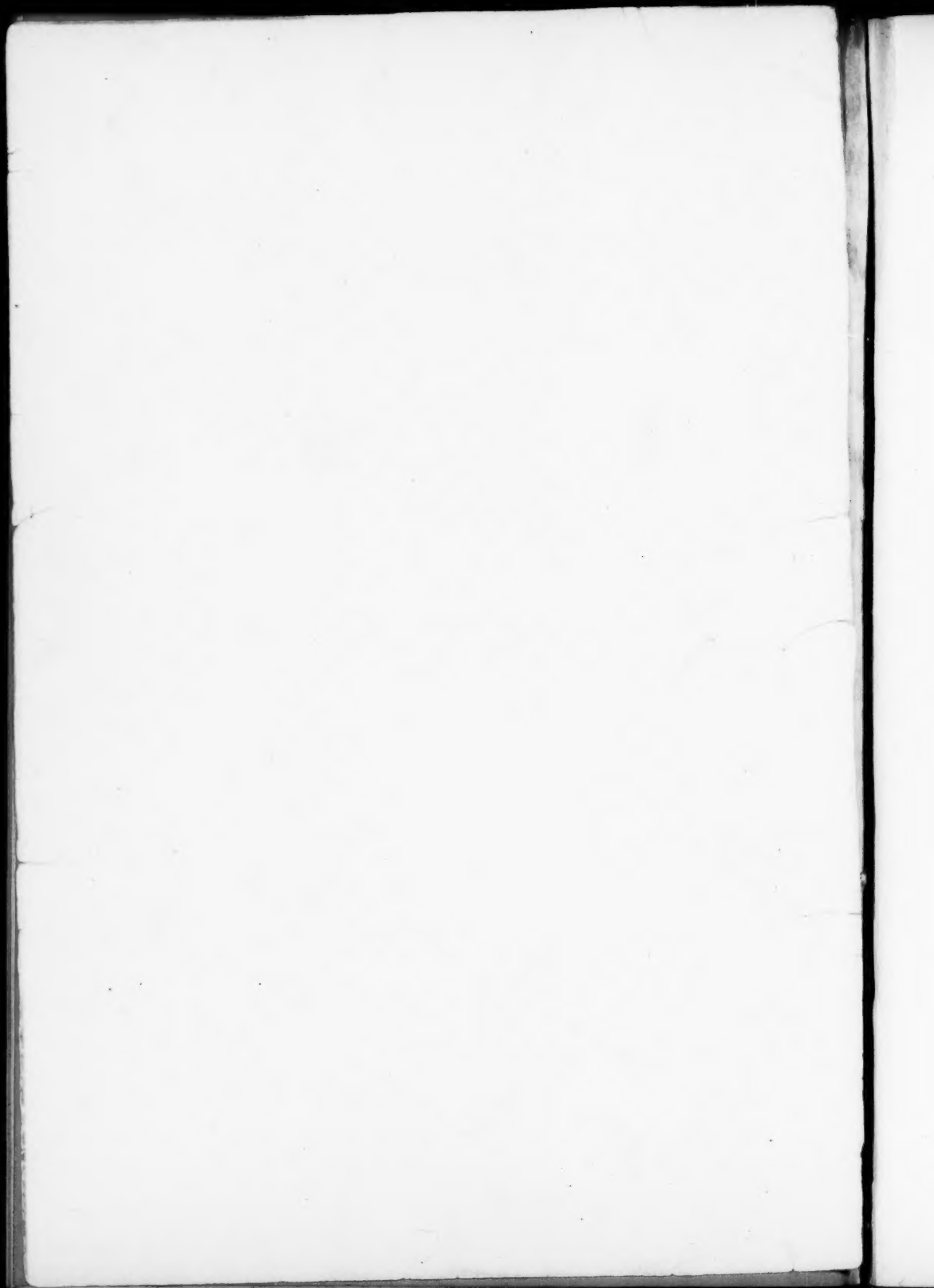
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A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 12

July, 1907.

No. 7

The Public Document Question*

Adelaide R. Hasse, chief of documents department, New York public library

While librarians are, of course, interested in the way in which public documents are printed, I do not think we would know enough about that to worry us, if the present system of distribution had not been devised. That system has had the effect of making the document an appreciable asset in 500 different libraries throughout the Union. Instead of being a convertible asset, it is, in a great many cases, a white elephant. These two facts, viz., the indiscriminate distribution of a public grant and the failure of the grantee to convert the asset into a negotiable factor, have brought about what may, without exaggeration, be termed the present crisis.

The system of depository distribution of public documents is, considering the rapid advance in other branches of library economy, an ancient one. It is 17 years the senior of this association, and is itself the outgrowth of a resolution passed as long ago as 1828. A resolution of that year provided for the distribution of certain documents by the librarian of Congress. In 1844 a joint resolution was passed, which transferred this duty to the Department of State, and in 1857 a resolution transferred the distribution to the Secretary of the Interior. Up to this time the distribution had been made by these officials without congressional designa-

tion. That is, they made the assignments as their several judgments dictated. In 1858 a joint resolution provided that the Secretary of the Interior should make the distribution upon designation to him by congressmen and delegates of the territories, and, by the printing law of the following year, viz., 1859, senators were added to the designators. That law, the law of 1859, remained in force until superseded by the law of 1895.

A survey of the records has led to the assumption that the original motive of this depository distribution was an amiable desire legitimately to benefit struggling and worthy institutions. There was at the time of its inception no organized labor interest to cause an inflated demand for these books. It may even be doubted whether the perpetuity of the scheme entered into the consideration of the benevolent gentlemen who promoted it. Certain it is, that the project was not stamped with permanence until, by the resolutions of 1858 and 1859, it was based on congressional designation. So soon as this change took place the basis became one of population.

Public documents are used almost solely by specialists in some one of the natural, technical or historical sciences. Yet according to the basis referred to, it is the natural and artificial increment of the whole population which determines both the number and the location of depositories. The natural increment is not sufficiently diverse in the several states to affect our

*From report on public documents to A. L. A. at Asheville, May 20, 1907.

particular case; that is, the birth rate of the whole population is not sufficiently fluctuating to affect it. The artificial increment is due to the influx of foreigners. This influx proceeds along a direct route, namely, through the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana to Illinois, where it disperses. Now as depository designation is determined by representation, and representation by density of population, it follows that the location as well as the number of depositories is practically fixed by the introduced American. In Greater New York alone there are now 15 depositories.

The change in the law which brought about this condition has had the effect of increasing the depositories from 12 in 1859 to 500 in 1904. At the same time the number of volumes subject to depository distribution has increased from 105 v. per Congress in 1859 to 341 v. per Congress in 1904. That is, the housing burden on the individual depository is more than three times greater today than it was in 1859, and there are a trifle less than 500 depositories to bear this burden as against 12 in 1859. That this increase in supplying a commodity is out of all proportion to the demand for it, is shown by the huge accumulation of not-wanted documents in Washington.

The fault lies in simple economic miscalculation. On the one hand we have a producer supplying a commodity on the basis of the growth of the whole population. On the other hand, we have the consumer, in this case a specialized group—the American student body. This consumer is numerically far in the minority, the ratio being about 1 to 750. In trying to get away with the supply there has been incurred on his part what amounts, in many cases, to chronic document indigestion.

The result of this oversupply is the astounding spectacle of a producer forced to provide storage for his own unsalable goods at the same time that

he is hiring an army of 3000, more or less, to turn out more of the same kind of goods. What adds to the astonishing feature is the fact that not private but public funds are being usurped.

The incongruity of the whole thing has at last become apparent to the producer, as is shown by the attitude of the printing investigation commission now sitting. This body has so far confined itself to strongly recommending retrenchment in the congressional quota, that is, in the number of documents allowed to each senator and member for his personal distribution, as well as to legislation, which affects the size and binding of individual documents. So far, I believe, nothing effective has been accomplished in cutting down the congressional quota. In cutting down the size and binding of documents something has been done. But remedial legislation, unless it is very radical, which affects only the size and binding of individual documents can hardly counteract the outside cost of an ever-increasing mass. Remedial legislation such as this is not a fixed cut, for if the mass is increased, the cut simply becomes multiplied. While the proportion of the expenditure for the particular item covered by this legislation may be decreased, the sum total will eventually remain the same. The items of increased cost for administration and transportation of this growing mass should not be overlooked in a consideration of this subject. The only effective cut can be made in retrenchment in the congressional quota and in depository distribution. The former has already been suggested by the printing commission. The latter has not been broached by it. I do not think that the intention has been to overlook us, but I have a feeling that it has been because the public man is perhaps the keenest of all men to follow the maxim that it is well to let sleeping dogs lie. For until today in all the 50 years that the depository system has

been in operation, Government and the depositories have never taken a single step to bring about a mutual hearing. I think the legislators have all along felt that it was expedient to let us alone, and that in some way, they perhaps didn't see exactly how, they were accomplishing a great public good in maintaining this depository system. We have allowed them to remain entirely in the dark as to our perplexities. As these have become multiplied we have been inclined to take it out on the officials appointed to carry out the law. We have seemed not to realize that the more strenuously these officials carried out the law, the greater the disaster they were creating for us. For a more loosely drawn law than the printing law of 1895 is probably not written upon the statute books. The only solution which suggests itself at present is that of placing a file of government publications in carefully selected libraries, able to care for such a file and which represent various parts of the country, and after that the withdrawal of all other documents from free distribution and this sale at a minimum cost price. You may not at all agree with this suggestion, and it is by no means put out as an ultimatum. But if a change is expedient, if it is hoped for, if it is to be worked for, someone had to make the opening move.

In the beginning of this paper reference was made to the failure of the depositories to convert the documents into a negotiable asset. There is a good deal of cant and more or less enthusiasm about the great amount of valuable information locked away in these documents. How do we know it? Or is it guessing? If we know it, who has convinced us? Not a librarian. For in all the 50 years in which these books have been freely dispensed to libraries, not one has prepared a tool which would unlock this store-house of information. But for laymen it would be as much locked up today as it was 50 years ago. This fact is significant to me as show-

ing the unpreparedness of the average library to make use of this asset, for it furnishes ample material for both useful reference work as well as for bibliographical sky rocketing. There is another point in the failure of librarians to properly use the documents. 'You and I, librarians, belong, economically speaking, to a non-producing element of the population. As a class, we are curators, conservers employed to exhibit materials for the benefit of a certain group of the producing element. Now if ever a work required an exceptional, a mature, an experienced intellect, it is that of adequately preparing the display of a library's resources, technically known as the card catalogue, for the benefit of the producing element. By that, do not for one moment mistake me as referring to the preparation of the individual card. It is the building of these cards into a rational, intelligent, related whole that makes a catalogue differ from a collection of cards. As an instance of how we have failed properly to use documents, the following will do.

During the reconstruction period a bitter tariff war was being waged. Both protectionists and free traders were ably represented, and we have the Henry C. Careys and Horace Greeleys, etc., of the time in our catalogues among our tariff literature. Their names appear on the title pages of their books. The most able, clearly the most disinterested man among both protectionists and free traders was the man whose voice was raised most uncompromisingly, most fearlessly, in favor of revision, the then special commissioner on revenue, David Wells. The reports of this man are as able literature as any we have upon the tariff and upon taxation, yet I am perfectly willing to stake all I ever hope to own, that while many libraries may be well represented in their catalogues by the protectionists and the free trade pamphleteers, there is not one which is represented by the reports of special commissioner Wells among its tariff literature. His name does not appear

on the title page of his reports. That is one instance of what I mean by brain going to the making of a catalogue, and also by the statement that libraries have failed properly to use documents.

But what is perhaps the very gravest thing about the preponderance which mere bulk has given to federal documents, is the entire elimination thereby of interest in local documents. There are comparatively few of us who have even gone so far as to express a lack of knowledge of state and city documents. In the time to come these will be of the greatest service to the historian, using that word in its widest meaning. To-day is the time to collect them, for to-day the institutions which they represent are in a formative period. There are those who believe these documents to be worthless. It is true that they are mostly made up of figures, and that they do not contain to the extent that some federal documents do, what the foreigner calls preserved hot air. On the other hand it is true that it is just these figures which give local documents their value. We have recently had over here the distinguished French statistician and economist, M. D'Avenel. It is said that in his work on the ante-nineteenth century industrial conditions of France, this gentleman examined hundreds upon hundreds of family budgets. As has been said, we are curators, with a duty not only for today but toward yesterday and tomorrow. It is this duty which requires that those of us who are librarians of public libraries should collect the documents of the city, town or state which pays for our support, for the use of some future American D'Avenel.

Had I the power to choose I would pray for a sunny disposition as the boon which confers more happiness on its owner, and more happiness on those with whom one comes in contact, than any other which falls to the lot of the human creature.

Time Notices*

The following is a compilation of time notices which may prove useful to librarians having foreign books.

The notice in the native tongue pasted in the back of the book, just above the pocket, may prevent first cause of friction with foreigners. The idea is, that the length of time that a book may be kept is about the most important of the rules for a reader to know, and this two weeks' rule applies almost universally. Thus a reader who may be unable to read the various other rules of a library printed (in English of course), on the book pocket or wherever, may at least know this important fact by seeing it in his own language.

English

This book may be kept two weeks. A fine of two cents per day will be charged for each day the book is kept overtime.

Polish

Te książkę można zatrzymać 2 tygodnie. Nałożona jest kara dwa (2) centy za każdy dzień, jeżeli książka jest zatrzymana dłużej niż 2 tygodnie.

Swedish

Denna Bok må behållas två veckor. En afgift af 2 cent pr dag, skall erläggas för hvarje öfverskjutande dag.

Slavish

Túto požičanu knižku máte právo podržat si za dva týždne ku prečítaniu a po dvoch týždňoch za každý deň platiť 2 centy.

Hungarian

Ezen könyv két hét leteltével vissza hozandó; ellen esetben az olvasó 2 centet fizet minden napra.

Italian

Questo libro può serbarsi per due settimane. Se si serba di più si incorrerà nella multa di 2c al giorno.

*Acknowledgment is due C. E. Wright of Duquesne, Pa., for assistance, and also to the Remington Typewriter Company for the Russian and Yiddish notices.

French

On peut garder ce livre deux semaines. Après ces deux semaines on aura à payer une amende de deux cents par jour.

German

Dieses Buch kann zwei Wochen behalten werden. Rückbehalt desselben nach Ablauf dieses Termins wird mit Strafgeld von zwei Cents pro Tag taxirt.

Bohemian

Tato kniha může být podržena po 14 dní. Pokuta dva centy bude čítána za každý den přes dva týdny.

Russian

Эту книгу можно держать
два недѣли. Штрафъ въ
размѣрѣ двухъ центовъ
будетъ налагаться за
каждый день удержанія
книги долѣе означеннаго
срока.

Yiddish

דיעזער בוך קען געהאלטען
ווערען צוויי וואכען. א שטראף
פון צוויי סענט א טאג וועט
ארויפגעלייגט ווערען פאר
יעדען טאג וואס מען האלט
איהם ליינגער וויא צוויי
וואכען.

Lessons as to Construction from the
San Francisco Fire*

George T. Clark, librarian San Francisco public library

In discussing the architectural lessons to be learned from the destruction last year of the San Francisco libraries, it is sincerely to be hoped that no other community will ever be visited by such a calamity as befell San Francisco on April 18, 1906. But the work of destruction was done with such minute attention to detail and was accomplished with such completeness, that it would seem that no destroying agency not then experienced need ever be feared or anticipated. The earthquake prepared the way for the fire by cutting off the water supply, by demoralizing the fire department and fatally injuring its chief and by injuring many buildings so that they were not in condition to resist encroachment by fire. Finally the earthquake was directly responsible for the thirty or more fires which were immediately started in various parts of the city. Hence if man's ingenuity can plan, erect and equip buildings that will endure under similar conditions, the occupants of such building can think of the future with entire serenity of mind.

The projected new building for the San Francisco public library not having been erected it was still housed in a portion of the City Hall, which although not of the modern steel frame type was a supposedly fireproof structure. Its fire-resisting qualities, however, were seriously impaired by the earthquake, and in the absence of effective barriers within the building, such as metal doors, there was nothing to retard the progress of the fire after it once gained access. The building of the Mechanics institute was of a still older type and was not fireproof. It is obvious then that we must look to the more recent buildings, embodying the latest improvements in design and construction, and from the manner

*Read before A. L. A. at Asheville meeting.

in which they resisted the destructive agencies draw such lessons as may fruitfully be observed in the future.

Earthquakes are of such rare occurrence over most of the habitable area of the United States that precautions against them will be regarded by many as needless. However, the San Francisco experience proves that buildings properly constructed on good foundations need suffer little or no damage from that source. Charles D. Marx, professor of civil engineering at Leland Stanford Junior university, writes:

In all probability brick walls laid in good cement mortar can be made as monolithic as concrete walls. That these latter need no steel in the walls to resist shock has been shown in the case of Roble hall and the Museum. That masonry structures built around structural steel framing can be made to resist the shock of earthquake is shown by the dome of our library and by the many steel buildings standing in San Francisco.

It is more particularly against the hazard of fire that precautions must be taken. According to a report made to the National Board of Fire Underwriters there were in San Francisco fifty-four fireproof buildings of varying types. With few exceptions these were all completely gutted by the fire and many were so badly damaged structurally that they had to be taken down. A prominent architect was quoted as saying shortly after the fire that nothing was absolutely fireproof. It was merely a relative term. In probably every instance the fire did not originate in the building, but was admitted from the outside, because of insufficient protection for openings.

In one case a building was saved by reason of its windows being glazed with wire glass, set in metal frames. The exposed door openings were equipped with double metal-covered standard underwriter doors. The win-

dow glass was cracked by the heat, but the wire netting held it in place and the flames were effectively barred. The United States mint was saved through being equipped with inside iron shutters at window openings, and having an independent water supply, with a force of employes and United States troops to use it. In still another case the flames penetrated the three lower floors of an eleven-story office building, but did not reach the upper stories because of concrete floors with cement finish and metal-covered doors and trim.

Without going too much into technical details I shall undertake to summarize from the reports of experts the established facts that may be applicable in the planning and construction of library buildings.

As a precaution against destruction by earthquake it is necessary that the foundation be adequate and stable, and of sufficient strength to enable the entire base of the building to move as a unit. For the superstructure a properly designed and executed steel frame would afford the greatest security.

For protection against fire it is of utmost importance that all exterior openings should be effectively guarded. Several devices are available for this purpose, such as metal or metal covered doors and door and window frames, metal sash windows, wire glass glazing and metal shutters. One architect has designed an automatic concrete shutter with a fusible link, which will cause it to close on the approach of flames from the exterior.

The San Francisco experience proved that for façades pressed silica brick and terra-cotta brick of the common size withstand the intense heat better than granite, marble, sandstone or limestone. Granite in particular spalled severely even when not subjected to the highest temperature of the fire. When used as caps for piers or columns it has in many cases crumbled

and gone to pieces. It goes without saying that roofs must be of some substance that will prevent the ingress of fire from that direction. Tin laid over boards proved inadequate. Copper, slate or some other material of greater refractory power should be used.

These are precautions against fire from the outside. It is wise also to take measures to retard the progress of a fire should it get started within a building. Steel columns must be fireproofed or they will buckle from the heat. There were many column failures in San Francisco from the lack of proper fireproofing, and for this purpose nothing proved superior to concrete. Fireproof partitions are necessary to prevent the spread of fire. As a ship is divided into a series of watertight compartments, so a building may be divided into a series of fireproof compartments. For this purpose nothing gave more satisfactory results than reinforced concrete used for floors and partitions. It may not always be feasible to use many such partitions in a library building, but the stack at least can be so separated and the entrances to it can easily be equipped with automatic metal-covered doors. In large libraries it would be wise to subdivide the stack likewise into fireproof compartments. Reinforced concrete could be used for every second or third stack floor, and in very large libraries vertical partitions of similar material would lessen the chances of total destruction in the event of a conflagration.

Another precaution which should not be neglected is the provision of an independent water supply. There was evidence in the San Francisco fire of a temperature at certain points of about 2200 degrees Fahrenheit, hence there is strong liability to ignition within a building even without direct access of the flames. But it may be possible with water available and a few men at hand to extinguish such fires

in their incipency. The writer knows of a dwelling house that was saved by having at hand a few siphon bottles of soda water, when no other water was available. Where there is a possibility of earthquakes tanks on the roof are undesirable. There should be a well, with a pump operated by some power installed on the premises. In the event of a conflagration power from an outside source is to be relied on.

These are some of the lessons driven home by the San Francisco experience.

The Mountains

How beautiful the mountain tops
They shine and shimmer in the sun
And spreading wide their purple slopes
They offer us a welcome home.

But we who come to bask and dream,
And take the joy so gladly given,
Forget the grinding earthquake shock
That lifted up their heads to Heaven.

Forget the scathing fires within,
The tortured pangs, the warring feuds;
The broken ties and rended rock,
The powers of darkness unsubdued.

And when at last the highest peaks
Are shrouded in eternal snow,
That veil of purity and peace
Reflects afar the sunset glow.

And so we grow from age to age,
And through our pain and inward war,
We tame the unholy powers within,
And take the veil. We sin no more.

Sweet influences come from far,
Forgotten, pain and anguish cease,
Now fires immortal touch the heart,
And fold us into perfect peace.
Asheville, 1907 J. F. H.

The greatest number of readers do not need the assistance of experts, but a large proportion do need the personal assistance of experienced and sympathetic reference librarians.—C. W. Andrews.

A Day in Cincinnati

On the way to A. L. A. meeting at Asheville

Early on May 22, a. m., after a comfortable night's ride from Chicago, a party of 50 persons was received at the Cincinnati public library with the usual cordial courtesy of Librarian Hodges, President Porter and the heads of the staff of the library, and given every opportunity to see and examine the splendid facilities of the library that is in many ways unique.

The main library is in the heart of the very busiest part of the city on a level with the street and there is a constant stream of people coming and going. The building was originally an opera house, so that its adaptation to effective library purposes is the more remarkable. There is free access to shelves on the entire first floor of the main room. This room is very high, having several tiers of shelves extending to the vaulted ceiling. Entrance to these is from the upper floors, where the main reference collections are kept. The children's room, the special study room, with its thousands of selected books for student use, the room for the blind, the art room, the instructional department, where the library's training class is taught, the newspaper room in the basement, and other places of interest in the library were shown by appointed members of the staff.

The special collection of 800 v. of standard literature in fine binding and often original editions excited the greatest admiration of the visitors.

All too soon for many, the party took special trolley chair cars and sped away to visit the beautiful new branch libraries in three different and widely differing sections of the city.

To attempt to describe the pleasure afforded would be to resort to superlative utterances. Carefully planned, well built, handsomely and adequately furnished and equipped, cheerful and inviting in appearance, nothing seemed lacking to make these branch libraries models worthy of following for either

branch or small libraries. Words of admiration alone were heard. The auditoriums in connection with all these branches are quite in keeping with the libraries; well furnished, sanitarily and conveniently arranged with lanterns and other facilities, they, too, received the heartiest admiration.

A remarkable fact in connection with the opening of these branch libraries is the fact that it has had no diminishing effect on the circulation and work at the main library. On the contrary, the records show that many who never used the collections downtown before are now doing so and the records show them to be also using the branches.

At 2 o'clock the party was taken to the beautiful Zoo park, in itself a pleasure, where a magnificent luncheon was served at the cafe. A number of trustees and the librarians of the other Cincinnati libraries joined the party, which here numbered 65. Creatore's band played to the great pleasure of the guests during the meal, though it was somewhat difficult for Librarian Hodges to be as eloquent to the strains of Tannhaeuser as he often is at the speech-making period.

From the Zoo the party was taken to the Rookwood potteries, where an interesting hour was spent. At its close a hearty vote of thanks was tendered the Cincinnati public library officials for the pleasure of the day.

Again the special cars were boarded and the party returned by way of the incline railway, a novel experience for many, to the library at 6 o'clock, where leave was taken of the hosts of the day who had so well deserved the gratitude of their guests.

More knowledge and good is obtained by a librarian coming into personal touch with other librarians during a conference week than can ever be achieved in a state of seclusion. The sum spent on a library conference to insure a librarian's attendance is by far the most profitable investment a library can make in a single year.

Note from the A. L. A. Committee on Bookbinding

Charles Scribner's Sons announce that the following books to be published during the Summer and Fall will have a special library edition:

Mrs Wharton's *Fruit of the tree*.

Henry VanDyke's *Days off*.

F. Hopkinson Smith's *An old-fashioned gentleman*.

A. E. W. Mason's *The broken road*.

Henry Holt & Co. announce that they will issue a special edition of William de Morgan's *Alice-for-short*, and Miss Plummer's *Roy and Ray in Mexico*.

A Strong Objection

Public library of Newark, N. J.,
June 5, 1907.

To the Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I do not like the assumption of superiority which I find in the article of H. Ralph Mead on Limiting access to shelves, in the June number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. He says "the majority of readers are more or less uncertain and confused when in direct contact with a large collection of books." I would like to ask Mr Mead if he has made any careful observations on the uncertainty and confusion of readers of books who are in direct contact with a large collection of them. Is not this an assumption born of Mr Mead's superior knowledge of books? I object also to the statement that "with the open system all definite knowledge and command of the books slip from the hands of the library officials." This is simply absurd. J. C. DANA.

Work for the Blind

The ninth convention of the American association of workers for the blind will be held in Boston, Mass., on August 27-30. Inquiries regarding the conference may be addressed to the local committee at 277 Harvard st., Cambridge, Mass.

The attention of all librarians interested in embossed books for the blind is called to the new periodical in ink print entitled *Outlook for the Blind*, a quarterly record of the progress and welfare of the blind, published in Cambridge, Mass., by the Massachusetts association for promoting the interests of the blind. The price is 50 cents a year, and the editor is Charles F. F. Campbell, 678 Massachusetts av., Boston, Mass., of the Massachusetts experiment station for the blind.
EMMA R. NEISSER.

A Request for Errata

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I shall be glad to receive notice of *errata* in the annual indexes, 1902 to 1906, for use in correcting proof of the Poole supplement covering that period, which is now in press.

Amherst, Mass. W. I. FLETCHER.

The Liberty Song

Referring to Miss Rogers' question in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for June, "United we stand, divided we fall," was first written by John Dickinson in *The liberty song* (1768), though not worded quite as it is quoted today. See *Library of American literature*, 10:44. The present well-known form of the quotation was given to it by G. P. Morris in *The flag of our Union*. See Bartlett's *Familiar quotations*, p. 426, and Conklin's *Who wrote that?* p. 185.

Out of Print Books

A large number of librarians requested a year ago that the out-of-print books, Jersey street and Jersey lane and Zadoc Pine, be republished. This was done. A recent request for an edition of another title brings the statement that these first reprints have not been used by those who called for them. Librarians who made the request, work a hardship on others when they neglect to do their part in such a case as this. L. E. M.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - - -	20 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$1.35 a year

Entered as second class matter at Chicago post-office.
PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

Honors for a librarian—At the commencement exercises at Yale university, June 26, the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Mr Putman, librarian of the Library of Congress. This is a most gratifying circumstance from both sides. It is a mark of appreciation of the splendid work Mr Putman has done in making the Library of Congress in fact what it should be in name, a National library. Yale university has been conservative in dispensing honors, and the fact that the honor has been conferred on a librarian, shows not only an appreciation of the administration of Congressional library, but the degree marks also an appreciation of the modern library movement.

The interest of Yale university in library development has been quite clearly marked for the last few years. With a new building under way, with the reorganization and recataloging of the contents of the library, with Professor Schwab, Mr Decker and Mr Keogh in the conduct of affairs, the library of Yale university is one of the strong points in the circle of effective library development in the United States.

Discussion of library training—The idea of a library school faculty meeting was

approached at Asheville in rather a gingerly fashion. There seemed to be a restraint over the proceedings as if there was not much relish in them on the part of those who were there. One should not say that this restraint resembled a fear that something not wished for might appear at any moment, but certainly there seemed to be backwardness about going on record in favor of a union of interests. It was as if most of those present were there without their own consent and were determined that no undue advantage should be taken of the fact of their presence.

The report of the committee on library training clearly showed that there are matters calling for attention and consideration on the part of those concerned in developing principles of library science, and everyone, even remotely interested, ought to welcome an opportunity for discussion and counsel and comparison from which definite ideas may be gained; where much that is nebulous may be molded into accurate shape or brushed away from in front of the vital and necessary parts of library training.

Asheville meeting of A. L. A.—The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the A. L. A. was not behind its predecessors in 'quality of material offered in public addresses, in influx of desirable membership, both in young people and those of mature years; of cordial hospitality offered by local patrons, in arrangements for holding sessions and in beauty of surroundings and historical interest. The program was, perhaps, too full for the greatest appreciation by the general multitude, of good things presented, but the greater

part of the audience learned to choose the meetings most related to their own work and interest. In this way it was not so heavy as it otherwise would have been. The ample quiet audience rooms and the large dining room of headquarters were much appreciated.

If high water mark was not reached in enthusiasm and amount of good work accomplished, the reason was not far away and, on the whole, there was much that was appreciable. There were still ebbing waves of the flood of discord of the past year, but those who were stirring the waters did it rather shamefacedly and without receiving the attention or concern of a year ago. Lincoln's famous saying may be paraphrased to state that the great body of the A. L. A. thinks right and is just. The inheritance received from the founders of the library faith will not pass from among us and crises but make the faithful more devoted.

If everyone who carries an A. L. A. membership will contribute something of good will and sincere fellowship during the coming year, an uplift will come from the Minnetonka meeting that will make it one of the A. L. A. landmarks.

A. L. A. headquarters—The report gained ground at the recent meeting of the A. L. A. that there was an organized effort among western members to abolish the headquarters. The most careful inquiry as to the facts in the case established nothing that could be called by such a name. The personal expression of one or two individuals was all that appeared for a foundation of such a report, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the injustice of such an idea may not be laid to the account of the rank and file of western librarians. What is

true of western opinion is equally true of the eastern contingent.

As a matter of fact, it is most untimely, now, for anybody to discuss the abolishment of the headquarters before the results of effort expended are more definite than they are at present. The time and money already expended represent too much to be considered lightly, and any movement which will interfere with the plans and purposes of headquarters before a reasonable trial has been given to the experiment is to be deplored. Within certain reasonable and well understood boundaries the officers in charge should be given a free hand to work out the problems which will attend the development of headquarters within a reasonable time, and if under those circumstances the situation is not satisfactory, measures should be taken to make it so.

But it is a question which should be handled without prejudice whether of locality, personality or favor, with the single purpose of the best development of library extension. The same attitude is applicable toward the conduct of headquarters on the part of those in authority to act for the association as the latter have a right to expect, and do expect, as librarians from their trustees acting for the public whom they serve.

The calm deliberation desirable has not been apparent in the discussion of the matter from the start. Few persons have been able to express an opinion on the subject without incurring an avalanche of heated speech before which there is nothing for the ordinary individual to do but to retreat. It is to be hoped, for the ultimate good of the association in spirit as well as material progress, that the matter pertaining to A. L. A. headquarters will be given all due consideration.

American Library Association

Twenty-ninth annual meeting, Asheville, N. C., May 23-29

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the A. L. A., held at Asheville, N. C., May 23-29, was unusually well attended, considering the distance most of those present had come. Two main parties brought the bulk of the members to Asheville. The western party gathered first in Chicago, going in two sections to Cincinnati whence combined, it required six Pullmans to carry the aggregate to Asheville.

At Knoxville still another party from the region south and west of there added its members, so that the arrival of the western party at Asheville showed for the first time that there really was "something going on." The main party from the east arrived Wednesday and the influx from that part of the country kept up until Saturday night. The advance registration was 377 and it reached 450 at the close of the meeting.

There were three registered from Canada, one from China, two from Oregon and four from California, so that wide representation, geographically speaking, marked the registration.

The meeting at Asheville in many ways partook of the atmosphere of the sunny south. More than 125 southern librarians were present, the largest number from this locality ever in attendance, and their influence was felt throughout. They constituted themselves, in a large measure, the hosts and hostesses of the occasion and appreciation of the traditional hospitality of the Southland was in no wise lessened thereby.

The general business of the association, to which the rank and file of the members are admitted, began on Thursday night by welcoming addresses, for the state, by Hon. F. T. Winston, Lieutenant-governor of North Carolina; for the city, by Judge J. C. Pritchard, and for the North Carolina librarians, by Louis R. Wilson, University of North Carolina.

Lieut.-governor Winston emphasized the fact that the heart of the Carolinian

is in his cordial "Howdy! Come in!" and that the librarians were invited to make themselves at home.

President C. W. Andrews responded and at the close of the address an informal reception was held in the parlors of the hotel.

On Friday a. m. the opening session was held.

The program as printed was followed with a few variations. C. W. Andrews delivered his presidential address to a crowded room, taking as his subject, The use of books.

He dealt with the subject from a many-sided view of books as reservoirs from which and by which the intellectual world is fed. He drew the final conclusion that the attitude of a library towards any particular piece of library work should be expressed by the question, why not? Whatever touching mental development is wanted by the public it should be furnished unless the reasons against doing so are stronger than those in favor. One of the greatest benefits of these annual conferences is the aid they give in keeping us out of ruts.

Probably the treat of the entire meeting was the address by Prof. W. P. Trent of Columbia university, New York City, on Friday morning. It was one of the most enjoyable addresses ever delivered before the A. L. A. A short review is as follows:

The function of books in a Democracy

W. P. Trent, Columbia university, New York

The speaker opened by stating his belief that the public library forms with the church, the court of law and the school, one of the corners of the foundation of a democratic state, but that the importance of the librarian's function is not so widely recognized as that of the clergyman, the judge, and the teacher. He next showed that the librarian more completely than any other man, transmits to the present the uncontaminated influence of the past. Speaking of the past led him to contrast the status of the library in the

South today with the status in the ante-bellum South. After a sketch of former conditions in the South, he ventured to prophesy that with the survival of the older southern culture as a basis or soil for work, we should shortly see a library renaissance in the South just as we are now seeing an educational renaissance and a renaissance of historical studies.

He then turned to more practical topics after confessing that in these days of specialization the representative of one calling can give only general aid and sympathy to those following other pursuits. He thought that American librarians had done wonderful things to advance the interests of scholarship in America, but expressed the belief that much remained to be done in regard to selecting and rapidly supplying technical works. He suggested closer affiliation between the A. L. A. and the various historical, linguistic, and scientific associations, as well as full utilization of the opportunities to secure photographic reproductions of rare books and documents and cooperation in forming a catalogue of American bibliographical treasures. He emphasized especially the fine work now being accomplished through the system of inter-library loans and gave anecdotes showing how little such aid was rendered scholars in the past. He concluded by emphasizing the close and cordial relations that must always exist between librarians and scholars.

The reports of officers and committees were scattered throughout the entire meeting, but the substance of most of them is as follows:

Treasurer's report for 1906

Combining report of Gardner M. Jones, Jan. 1 to Sept. 4, and report of George F. Bowerman, Sept. 4 to Dec. 31.*

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1906.....	\$1,797
Receipts, membership and subscription..	7,942
	<hr/> \$9,739

*The cents in this report are dropped.

Payments:	
Proceedings	\$1,618
Stenographer for A. L. A.....	215
Handbook	277
Secretary's salary	250
Assistant secretary's salary.....	840
Secretary's and conference expenses	622
Treasurer's expenses	117
Travel committee	248
Publicity committee	87
Report on gifts and bequests...	23
A. L. A. book lists.....	87
Copyright conference committee.	16
Committee on bookbuying.....	195
Committee on bookbinding.....	12
Executive officer's expenses soliciting salary	560
Additional help at headquarters	116
Rent and furniture	422
Stationery and postage.....	33
Travel and incidentals	171
Advanced for contingent fund..	100
Life membership for investment.	250

Total expenditure	\$7,119
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Receipts	9,740
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Balance on hand	\$2,621
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Headquarters

The Committee on A. L. A. headquarters submitted the following report:

Since making its first report, your committee has kept closely in touch with the work at the headquarters in Boston and finds that it is constantly developing in usefulness as librarians get to understand that there is a place where they have a right to ask for information and advice. Two features of the work are most in evidence:

First. The systematizing of the business—that which may be called the sales department, of the Publishing Board as distinguished from the editorial work which is, perhaps, the proper function of the Board.

Second. The beginning of a collection of plans of library buildings, which has required much hard work, time, and correspondence in inducing librarians and architects to furnish full floor plans, and in devising methods of mounting, arranging, and indexing such plans when obtained.

Of other departments of work, the labor of the making up and issue of the

Bulletin has fallen mainly upon the headquarters' force; and the number of callers and the amount of correspondence requiring attention has steadily increased.

Much might sincerely be said of the zeal, intelligent work, and constant application of E. C. Hovey. If the committee has any criticism to make in this connection, it is that he works too hard, night as well as day, for his health. In the settlement of the problems which have required attention in the establishment of the headquarters and in the carrying out of details for the advancement of the work and the interests of the association he has been indefatigable.

The members of your committee sincerely hope that the Association will be able to continue and enlarge the work so well begun, and that Mr Hovey can be retained in its charge.

D. P. COREY,
CHARLES C. SOULE,
GARDNER M. JONES.

Library work with the blind

The report of the committee on library work with the blind, offered by N. D. C. Hodges, chairman, was somewhat as follows:

First, reference was made to the efforts in local libraries to provide books and readings for the blind, then were taken up the outgrowths which have come naturally enough. These outgrowths are the technical training of the blind, the provision of agencies through which they may market their product and which in general shall care for their well being. To foster these various undertakings, societies have been formed, and during the past few years commissions have been appointed in a number of states, with the result that the work germane to libraries often has come to be only one part of the work of some larger and adjunct association or body. In the matter of books, there is an urgent demand for the unification of the forms of embossed type. The report recommended that a committee be appointed to keep in touch with what is

going on in libraries and to confer with the committees of the American association of workers for the blind and other similar organizations, the state commissions and local societies caring for the interests of the blind, so that all may work together to some good result.

Library post

The committee on library post, through its chairman, Dr J. H. Canfield, simply reported considerable activity during the year and much endeavor, but nothing accomplished—and its practical conclusion that nothing can be accomplished along the lines sought by the association until the postoffice department has been able to rid itself of a large number of encumbrances in the way of unwise classification, special privileges, etc., etc.

The committee practically asked to be discharged—because the whole matter must be in abeyance until there is a decided change in the administration of the postoffice department.

Report on bookbinding

The principal work for the committee called attention to Mr Dana's book on binding for libraries, and emphasized Mr Dana's statement that the criterion of the value of a rebound book lies in the number of times it circulates in proportion to its cost.

The committee on bookbinding again emphasized Mr Dana's book, *Binding for libraries*, calling special attention to Mr Dana's statement that the criterion of the value of a rebound book lies in the number of times it circulates in proportion to its cost.

The principal work of the committee during the year was along the line of inducing publishers to issue special library editions of current fiction. Through the coöperation of the editor of the A. L. A. *Booklist*, the committee was informed two weeks before publication what titles would appear in the *Booklist*. Publishers of these books were asked to issue them in a special library edition. Seven different publishers con-

sented to do this. In addition other publishers have made announcements that works to be published in the summer and fall would have editions in library bindings.

Inasmuch as the Paper and leather laboratory and the Bureau of standards at Washington have taken up the question of papers and leathers, the committee has done nothing along this line. The report ended with a summary of work that ought to be done by the committee and a statement that the committee considered its sole functions were to discover ways and means of making bindings more durable.

The report of the A. L. A. committee on training

Miss Plummer, chairman of this committee, gave the report. The following points were made:

On the authority of the Publishing Board and the Executive committee, the work of preparing a tract on the subject of Training for librarianship has been carried almost to completion. Such a tract will be issued by the Publishing Board shortly.

Reference was made to a number of new attempts at training for librarianship, with the statement that the committee knew nothing of the quality or success of the work attempted, but specifying one instance, that of a correspondence school at Washington, where the situation seemed to warrant unfavorable inferences.

The report also stated that the committee believing the time is now ripe for a general discussion of the subject of training for librarianship, recommends that a session devoted to that subject be included in the program next year.

International relations

E. C. Richardson, the chairman of the committee on International relations of the A. L. A., reported that the committee has confined its activities to transmitting the Narragansett Pier resolution as to desirability of printed cards for German books to

the administration of the Royal library at Berlin, a little correspondence on an international index to periodicals in social sciences, and introducing to the attention of the association, on reference from the president of the association, the intention of the Argentine Republic to establish a permanent educational expedition to illustrate the aims and results of American education, and the willingness of its representative, Ernesto Nelson, to receive material illustrating educational history for this purpose at the Manhattan Storage and Warehouse, 42d st. and Lexington av., New York City. The answer of the Berlin library was in effect that it was quite familiar with the advantages of printed cards, but must look at the matter from the standpoint of relative need and enterprises already undertaken.

The use of bibliography

This subject was presented in a scholarly and unusually interesting way by Andrew Keogh, reference librarian of Yale university. Mr. Keogh made the following points:

Bibliography has hitherto considered books chiefly as relics of the past or as works of art. This form of bibliography has been highly pleasurable, and of great historic and artistic value. Nevertheless it has been overshadowed by the recent growth of practical bibliography, whose function is to facilitate research. Bibliographers are now hard at work indexing and classifying knowledge, that men may have access to it without unnecessary toil.

Bibliographies differ in scope, being limited by territory, by period or by subject. They differ in arrangement, for they may be by authors, or logically classified, or alphabetico-classed, or by alphabetical subject-headings, or in chronological or geographical order. For certain uses or purposes certain forms are best. Bibliographies differ finally in value. All are selective, and differ only in the degree of exclusion.

In some the titles are inaccurate, or inadequate, or misleading. A complete and accurate list of titles is but a beginning, for a bibliography should indicate the comparative worth of books. This may be done by selection of titles; by annotations, showing the scope or purpose of each work; and by critical valuations. Bibliographies can be compiled only by specialists.

Libraries should build up their bibliographical collections as fully as possible, make them readily accessible and see that readers use them constantly.

A critical bibliography is the best help in building up a new collection, or in discovering and remedying deficiencies in an old one. It is the best basis for reading lists. It gives a student a preliminary survey of his field, mapping it out and subdividing it. Its highest function is to define the boundaries of knowledge, and determine the scholar's starting point.

Second general session

The second general session was held on Saturday morning with the general topic of the Southern library movement. It was opened with a paper on the History of the free public library movement in the South since 1899, read by Miss Wallace of Atlanta, Ga.

Reports from other southern states were offered, all of which showed awakening interest in the subject of libraries throughout the Southland. The reports from Alabama, North Carolina and Texas were especially good.

Third general session

The third general session, on Monday morning, opened with a very interesting address by Mary E. Wood, librarian Boone college, Wuchang, China. Miss Wood gave a very interesting account of Wuchang, which she said was a great literary center and seat of learning, both in the past and the present. She dwelt on the developments of educational institutions in China and showed that western ideas of learning were permeat-

ing the scholastic questions of China. She closed her address with a recital of what a public library could do for this work and made a strong appeal for those interested to help in developing library facilities in China.

The paper on the Administration and use of a law library, by F. B. Gilbert, State library, Albany, followed. Mr Gilbert deprecated the use of scientific classification in a law library, claiming that none of the classifications in use were applicable to the conditions prevailing in law libraries, and maintaining that material classified by any system of notation would be completely lost. Many of Mr Gilbert's statements were exactly contrary to the accepted theory of library science and the experience of many librarians.

Another address, ranking with the address of Prof. Trent, was offered by H. E. Legler, of the Wisconsin free library commission, on Certain phases of library extension. Mr Legler made a strong plea for the extension of book life in every grade of society as a means of preserving and developing intellectuality, spirituality and national feeling in our complex civilization.

The report of the committee on Cooperation with the N. E. A. was given by Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, Chicago. The reports gave the following points:

A. L. A. and N. E. A.

The year has been one of endeavor rather than of accomplishment. The endeavor has been along three lines. First, to interest the normal schools of the country. Second, to obtain larger official recognition of the work of the committee by the N. E. A. And third, to introduce more largely into high schools and training schools, instruction in the use of library facilities and literary tools.

1) Circular letters were sent to the normal schools calling attention to the handbook on Instruction in library economy in normal schools and inquiring as to the extent the school was able to make of the report. The replies showed every

degree of attitude, from a cordial reception and appreciation of the work and the principles underlying it, down to the statement, by one librarian, "I do not know what you mean by library economy."

2) On request of the chairman of the A. L. A. committee the executive board of the N. E. A. appointed a committee of their body to attend the meeting of the A. L. A. at Asheville and appointed R. J. Tighe of Asheville to address the convention. It also appointed Prof. Olson of Minnesota to a place on the general program of the N. E. A. at the Los Angeles meeting to present the claim of the library as an educational factor.

The report also included appreciative letters from Secretary Shepard of the N. E. A. and President Wilkinson of the library department of the N. E. A.

Third, the report referred to a number of instances where the librarians of public libraries were giving instruction to classes of public school teachers on the use of the library with satisfaction to all concerned.

The committee made three recommendations: 1) That a closer relationship be attempted between state libraries and departments of public instruction, such as exists in Oregon and other states, the library department taking the initiative if necessary.

2) That the A. L. A. program committee be encouraged to continue the policy of providing a place for representatives of the N. E. A. on the general program at each succeeding meeting.

3) That the A. L. A. and N. E. A. shall try to meet in the same locality at a time when members of either association can attend sessions of the other without too much inconvenience.

The report was signed:

M. E. AHERN,
J. H. CANFIELD,
MELVIL DEWEY,
MARTIN HENSEL.

The response for the N. E. A. was made by R. J. Tighe, president of the Southern educational association, who

expressed the most cordial appreciation of the work of the committee on co-operation with the A. L. A. and the general work of librarians in assisting the schools.

The report of the committee on Library architecture was given by C. R. Dudley, public library, Denver, Colo:

Library architecture

The appointment of the committee was not made until after the adjournment of the last session at Narragansett Pier, and it has not been possible to get a majority together for a meeting. There has been considerable correspondence and each member has done what he could to assist in carrying out the work assigned, but as would naturally be expected, Mr Hovey, the executive officer being closely in touch with Mr Soule, the vice-chairman, has performed most of the labor. He has furnished us a detailed statement of the results, which is the basis for this report. He has written extensively to architects and librarians, but has accomplished more by personal interviews. There are now at headquarters the floor plans of more than 100 library buildings, which range from the smallest to the largest—not only the main libraries of our large cities, but what are more valuable, those of the branches. The latter will include, and many are already there, all in the cities of Brooklyn, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York and Philadelphia.

Of the large libraries these are represented among others—Chicago being the only large city having three great libraries, naturally comes first, with its Public, Newberry and Crerar. Then there are those of Columbus, Grand Rapids, Nashville, Washington, Atlanta, New Orleans, two from the base of the Rockies and two or three from the Pacific coast. College libraries are represented by Clark, Radcliffe and Tulane. Generally speaking, all sections of the country have contributed—from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the gulf. It goes without saying that the

plans in the greatest demand, and so of the most value, will be those of small buildings, costing from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Especial effort has been made to make this department cover a wide range and to have it as representative as possible.

While the association will have accomplished much by securing plans of substantially all the latest buildings of all types, as Mr Soule pointed out in his paper a year ago, we will still be only at the beginning of the enterprise. These will be doubly enhanced in value by explanations and criticisms on the merits and defects of each by the librarians who have used them. These should be full and explicit. They should at least give the population of the place and general character of inhabitants, including principal occupations, the exact cost, with and without furniture, the year in which erected and whether the money came from a public or a private source. As regards the utility of the building, they should state whether the open or closed shelf system is in vogue, whether the rooms are in proper relation to each other, whether one is too large and another too small, whether they are so distributed as to admit of an economical administration and at the same time furnish the patrons the service and accommodations to which they are entitled, whether the natural light is adequate and the artificial lighting system satisfactory both as regards distribution and cost, what method of heating is employed and whether the plant is so installed as to furnish a proper temperature through the seasons at a minimum expense for fuel and care—in short, a business-like report on the value of the building for its uses, with recommendations as to any changes for betterment. There should also be photographs of the exterior and of each room taken during working hours, when the average number of patrons are present.

The association's headquarters were

not selected for the reason that they were ample for all purposes, but because they were the best that could be had for the money available. Mr Hovey has had much difficulty in planning for a satisfactory housing of the collection, but has finally decided, after a consultation with several architects, that the wisest method is to have each set of drawings hung from the wall in one of the rooms. The ultimate capacity of that space is about 150 sets. He estimates that the expense of caring for them by this system will be about \$50. Some furniture will be needed for properly displaying them, principally a large table and several vertical files. Some of the best photographs should be framed. The whole will entail an expense of about \$200. Your committee respectfully requests that the executive committee allow that sum for this department. The question of how to protect the architects, who have given sets of their designs, from plagiarists, has not been considered carefully by the committee. We believe, however, that they should have the support (if they need it) of the association in preventing anyone from using the drawings to avoid the payment of fees. There is another matter of importance and that is how much we should furnish without cost to applicants for information regarding plans. Your committee believes that a charge should be made for any unusual clerical assistance rendered. In order to make this collection of the greatest value it will be necessary to have a card index of the plans, photographs and criticisms, with such subject analysis as will make it possible for anyone to find the plans of and comments on the particular feature of the type of library he wishes to examine. An enterprise of this magnitude, if it is to attain marked success, must have the hearty cooperation of all members of the association, particularly of those connected with institutions which have recently erected buildings or have them now in process

of construction. They should take a personal interest in aiding to collect plans and in furnishing expert opinions on points of strength and weakness.

Mr Dudley also read a paper by George T. Clark of the San Francisco public library. See p. 255.

In the joint session with the National association of state librarians, into which the third general session resolved itself, the work of the Alabama state department of archives and history was presented by Dr Thomas M. Owen. This was followed by an address on Libraries in state institutions by Miriam E. Carey, supervisor of state institutions, Des Moines, Iowa. Miss Carey's report on the work done in these institutions has been given before in PUBLIC LIBRARIES (see pages 127-128).

Work of headquarters

The A. L. A. executive officer, E. C. Hovey, made a report on the work of the headquarters during the year, showing the work of organization and extension that had been carried on. The members of the A. L. A. in May, 1907, numbered 2014, representing every state in the Union and Canada. Several hundred letters of inquiry on library matters were answered and lines of communication with library organizations throughout the country have been established. The A. L. A. bulletin has been started as the official organ of the A. L. A., and arrangements for publishing all proceedings through its pages have been made.

The report was received with approbation by the association, and at its close a resolution offered by J. C. Dana, expressing the thanks of the association to the officers of headquarters for the program, progress made and efficient service rendered, was carried unanimously. During the progress of this motion a diversion in the proceedings was caused by an amendment offered by Miss Ahern to the part of Mr Dana's motion stating "that the headquarters in Boston be continued." Though heartily joining in the vote of thanks offered

and commending the efficiency of the officers of headquarters, yet she wished Mr Dana to add to his motion the words "at present," since, as so often stated before, it was the firm purpose of the Middle west to locate the A. L. A. headquarters in Chicago as soon as the experiment in Boston proved itself a success. Chicago was willing for Boston to have the trials and tribulations attending the experiment; but when the headquarters really got into full running order, the same would be removed to the Middle west. Mr Dana accepted the amendment and the motion was carried unanimously.

The fourth general session on Tuesday morning was devoted to the use of books and was extremely interesting from many points of view. Dr E. J. Nolan, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, gave an interesting discussion on natural history, pointing out the special knowledge needed by librarians of special libraries, and particularly an appreciation of the value of such libraries, with principles of their administration. He referred to the ancient and modern literature, pointing out for what each is valuable, as well as the importance of scientific publications.

The address on public documents by Adelaide R. Hasse contained so much sound doctrine regarding this much discussed subject that the address is given in full on page 251.

W. L. Post, superintendent of documents, made a good impression on the association, and many a librarian was heard to remark that after this she should not be backward about making her wants known in his department.

Other phases of the document question were presented by Henry M. Gill, public library, New Orleans; Willard Austen, Cornell university library; S. H. Ranck, Grand Rapids public library; T. M. Owens, Montgomery, Ala., and others.

The fifth general session continued the discussion of the use of books, two notably good papers being that on Books for children, by Alice M. Jordan, Boston

public library, and one on Fiction, by A. E. Bostwick, New York public library. The official proceedings in the A. L. A. bulletin will contain these papers in full, and librarians should make a special effort to examine them.

G. W. Lee of the library of Stone & Webster, Boston, Mass., presented a most interesting paper of the work of that institution and the possibilities of its development, under the title of the Library and the business man. After telling of the scope of their work he gave some interesting instances of the demands upon the library, as to the questions that were presented and methods of answering them.

He referred to the sources of information in their document files and the material in the library, and to the use which they made of their material accessible outside their own resources.

He referred to the working methods in using, classifying, engineering index and the memorandum methods, which help to place the material in accessible form.

The unsolved problems with which he came in contact were those of keeping in touch with new books and with book reviews, disposing of old books and periodicals and securing back copies of periodicals to complete volumes.

Mr Lee made a plea for Esperanto as an international language, largely for technical literature. He also urged wider coöperation between reference libraries.

Mr. Lee's paper was most comprehensive and very interesting and will be available for general distribution in printed form.*

Place of meeting

Various reports filled the closing hour of the last general session. The report from the committee on place of meeting for 1908 gave Lake Minnetonka, Minn. The necrology committee reported on the deaths of H. L. Elmendorf, Mrs

MacMullan and Dr Thomas. A resolution of congratulation was sent to F. M. Crunden, senior president, on his returning health.

The report of the committee on administration was printed and distributed. It may be had from headquarters. It deals with Economies in library work.

Amendments to the constitution

Proposed amendments to the constitution were offered covering practically the following:

1) In section seven strike out the words secretary, recorder and treasurer and substitute "a Secretary-treasurer."

2) As this changes executive board strike out provision for it in section seven and substitute "a board composed of the President and six members especially elected yearly" (Vice-president may, or may not be chosen).

3) Strike out sections nine, ten and eleven and consolidate them in one under head, secretary-treasurer, giving him also the functions of the present executive officer, who is now really only chief clerk. Strike out, however, three years provision in section seven.

4) Renumber later sections to correspond with changes.

Resignation of Library Journal

A communication from the *Library Journal*, after reviewing its work for the past 50 years, announced its resignation of the title, official organ of the A. L. A.

Election of officers

The report on elections showed the following: President, A. E. Bostwick, librarian, public library, New York city; first vice-president, C. H. Gould, librarian of McGill university, Montreal, Can.; second vice-president, Helen E. Haines, managing editor, *Library Journal*, New York city; secretary, J. I. Wire jr, vice-director, New York state library, Albany, N. Y.; treasurer, A. H. Hopkins, librarian, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa.; recorder, Lutie E.

*It may be had on application made to G. W. Lee, 84 State st., Boston, Mass.

Stearns, library visitor for Wisconsin library commission. The following were elected as members of the council: Mary Eileen Ahern, editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES, Chicago; Thomas L. Montgomery, state librarian, Harrisburg, Pa.; W. F. Yust, librarian public library, Louisville, Ky.; R. B. Bowker, editor of *Library Journal*, New York city, and Gardner M. Jones, librarian public library, Salem, Mass.

Children's librarians' section

The meeting of the section of children's librarians was presided over by the chairman, Alice M. Jordan of Boston. The opening paper was given by Harriet Hassler of Portland, Ore., on the subject Rules and regulations. The sub-topics were Registration, Age limit, and Fines. The speaker noted the importance of wise rules. The first time that the child really assumes any formal responsibility of citizenship is when he signs the register and agrees to obey the rules of the library; hence, whatever else the rules are not, they must be just. In the Portland library, when a child makes application for a card the librarian writes a personal note to the parent in order to come into friendly coöperation. A book register is kept, which the applicant signs, after his simple obligations have been explained to him. The name of the school is a useful item on the register. Membership in a children's department needs to be renewed at not too long intervals, possibly once a year, in order that track may be kept of the children. In charging books, it is important to put the book number on the card, otherwise the librarian has no record of the individual child's reading; she cannot carry such records in her memory and cannot, without them, guide children's reading intelligently. The speaker advocated granting a card as soon as children could sign the register and use books. She discussed also the matter of leaving the children's room for the main library. At about 15 years of age a child may be considered old enough to be transferred. This is done somewhat

formally in Portland. The last Friday of each month is designated for graduating members from the children's room. At that time each graduating member is introduced by Miss Hassler to the chief of the circulating department, who explains location of books, lists, rules, etc., governing the main library. Fines should not be remitted except for some extraordinary reason. The library should not be a respecter of persons, but should sometimes give the borrower the benefit of the doubt. Rules must be made for the best good of the larger number.

Miss Hassler's paper was discussed by three persons. Miss Allen of Milton, Mass., spoke on Registration. In Milton an alphabetical file of registration slips is kept instead of a book register. Instead of a letter to parents, a minor's certificate is used, which must be signed by parent or guardian before a card is issued. The registration slip records name of school, as well as name of parent, street, age, etc.

Miss Price, State organizer for Pennsylvania, discussed age limits. In regard to the age for leaving the children's room, she advocated a gradual and partial transfer rather than a complete one, for two reasons: First, otherwise many books must be duplicated in the general library and in the children's room; if an interchange of books is not allowed for, since a boy or girl under 15 years would want some adult books, and after that age would still enjoy some juvenile favorites; second, if the transfer is gradual, the children's librarian can continue to exercise friendly supervision at a critical age.

Miss Asken, State organizer for New Jersey, spoke briefly on Fines, referring to the custom in some libraries of allowing children to work out fines by doing errands, putting books in order, etc.

Miss Hewins said that in the Hartford library fines were not remitted, for even poor children had pennies for candy and similar uses. There also a parent must sign at the library the child's application for a card.

Miss Jordan stated that in Boston the borrower's card was held for six months if a fine was unpaid. At the end of that time the fine was remitted.

In the second paper of the program Mary De Bure McCurdy, Supervisor of library work with schools in Pittsburg, Pa., spoke of methods to encourage the use of real literature. Miss McCurdy dwelt upon the great opportunity at school of introducing children to literature from the standpoint of pleasure before pupils begin the critical study of the classics in the secondary school. There is required pupils of ordinary intelligence, library books, a well-ordered course of study, and teachers who know and love good literature. Much can be done by the Library Supervisor in suggesting to teachers books for reading and study. Since juvenile fiction is inadequate and the range of suitable adult fiction is limited, there should be developed a taste for biography, history, travel and poetry. Literature should be correlated with every interest of the child, but sympathetically rather than mechanically. Pupils in the fourth grade in Pittsburg are now reading what nine years ago were treasures of the seventh and eighth grades. As a result of the widely differing systems of instruction there must be wide difference in the methods employed by libraries in their efforts to aid the schools of their cities. Are we doing all that can be done during the formative period of school life?

Miss Power, Library instructor in the Cleveland normal school, emphasized the need of instructing the teachers themselves in children's books and in the use of the library.

An interesting paper on Poetry for children was prepared by Miss Plummer of Pratt institute, and in her absence, was read by Miss Jordan.

At the business meeting of the section, officers chosen for the coming year were Hannah Ellis of Madison, Wis., chairman, and Mary Donsman of Milwaukee, secretary.

College and reference section

Through the kindness of Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan and chairman of the college and reference section, the abstracts of the papers, read before that body, are presented.

The university libraries of Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia

Louis R. Wilson, librarian of the University of North Carolina

Historically, the university libraries of Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia are interesting because they had their beginnings in the late days of the 18th, or early days of the 19th century and because their long development has been affected by many varying influences. Their immediate past is worthy of special consideration because of their adoption of a general library policy emphasizing (1) enlargement of book collection, (2) systematic classification and cataloguing, and (3) improvement of general equipment. Their future is indicative of great serviceableness; for they have assumed their rightful place as university departments in their respective universities; they have impressed all forms of collegiate activity with their genuine worth; and they are exerting to-day a wide-felt influence upon all phases of educational activity in the southeast.

University branch libraries

Willard Austen, reference librarian, Cornell university library

Willard Austen, in his paper on University branch libraries, divides the university library into two distinct divisions: Books much used, and books little used. The users of the library are divided into the two classes: The general reader, and the specialist. To meet the demands of these two classes of readers, and also to shelve the two classes of books most economically, he recommends the branch library. This differs from the present department library in containing only those books in constant use at the branch, and in having the supervision of someone with library experience. Telephone and messenger service should connect the

main library with all branches. A record should be kept at the main library of the books in each branch, so that any book may be readily located, and the branch should have either a catalog or a shelf list of its books.

Educational value of reference room training for students

Willard Austen, reference librarian, Cornell university library

Willard Austen, reference librarian at Cornell university, in his paper on the educational value of reference room training for students points out to the librarians the plain path of their duty to the educational world. Librarians, he says, if they are to be part of the educational forces of the country, must aim to develop the individual, above all the helpless individual who is uncertain what he wants and more uncertain how to go about getting it. Mr Austen's plan of procedure is to develop first the individual's ability to use what knowledge he has already acquired, in short teach him to practice self reliance. Mr. Austen's suggestion for the first stage is open shelves, not necessarily the whole library, but a good and attractive collection which would require the individual at least to choose between two equally attractive books. The second step is to arouse an interest in some subject which can be satisfied by books. The third step is to develop in the individual the capacity for seeking, himself, the books wanted. In other words to make them proficient in the use of catalogs, bibliographies and indexes. It is here, Mr Austen points out, that the librarian's, especially the university librarian's work really begins. He is the librarian to alleviate the "sad spectacle of hundreds of students wasting hours daily because of their own and others' lack of knowledge concerning bibliographical laws." There are several ways of attempting a solution, Mr Austen points out: by general lectures concretely illustrated; by short courses of practical instruction; by personally conducted tours around the library; and by personal individual assistance at the moment the stu-

dent shows a desire to find out something and does not know quite how. Mr Austen finds this last method the most effective in the end. But here, as with all others of his efforts, the librarian should always keep in mind his aim, the development of the individual, teaching the individual to help himself.

The indeterminate functions of the college library

J. F. Daniels, librarian of the Agriculture college, Ft. Collins, Colo.

The paper on the Indeterminate functions of the college library by J. F. Daniels, librarian of the Agricultural college, Ft. Collins, Colo., sets forth with up-to-date frankness the college library's general ineffective and inefficient service to its constituency. In Mr Daniel's eyes, the college library's inefficiency and commonplaceness are due, in most part, to the folly of its indiscriminate collections of nothing in particular, to its weak, mediocre duplication and foolish effort to cover all branches of knowledge. What the college library of today wants first and foremost is to rid itself of the old-fashioned idea of storehouse. Storehouse is only permissible with the adjective national in front of it, and the college library is no candidate for such an honor. The college library's life and efficiency, in fact, depend upon an opposite course—the elimination of all books not useful and pertinent to the functions of its own individual self. Nine-tenths for condensation and brevity and one-tenth for intensive and worth-while accumulation should be the college library's guiding principle.

With this riddance of useless lumber, and his library equipped with working tools well burnished and up to date, the college librarian has more time and opportunity to turn his attention to what is after all any library's most important function, its service to its constituency. This service, Mr Daniels maintains, should be an intensive service, a service that first of all does not lose its soul through worship of ma-

chinery, but always keeps in mind the perspective, the rightful proportion of things human. A service that remembers the good will and enthusiasm of students, as well as the possibilities of coöperation and division of responsibility among neighboring town and university libraries. In discussing this matter of the college library's service, Mr Daniels brings up the subjects of longer hours, Sunday opening and the college library as a book store in direct partnership with the publishers. Mr Daniels also advocates special document clerks for the care of federal documents and would show more encouragement than has heretofore been shown in the matters of book design and book-binding as a fine art.

Designing of a college library

By Normand S. Patton, architect, Chicago

The recent revolution in the methods of administering public libraries has led to a corresponding revolution in the designing of library buildings, resulting in the development of recognized types of plans. Radical changes have occurred also in the methods of conducting college libraries, but as yet no such distinctive types of buildings have been evolved for college libraries. The solution of this problem of new types of college library buildings, suited to the new conditions, will be worked out by the library and architectural professions jointly.

The architect's first duty is to put himself into sympathetic touch with the problem and learn to appreciate the value of each suggestion. Next he should plan the building from the inside. The plan should govern the design, never the reverse. He should take complete charge of the designing of the library from the time when the suggestions of the librarian are put into his hands. The architect is not to assist the librarian in designing the library, he is to design it. For this work the architect has made special preparation. Often a college library is

built when there is no librarian in charge, so that the architect is thrown upon his own resources.

The college library building is a simpler problem than that of the public library, as only one class of readers has to be considered, viz., students. Therefore in the simplest form we may dispense with children's and delivery rooms and place on the main floor a large reading room, stack room and administration rooms. The public library usually has a basement and second story arranged with the rooms for lectures, museum, art gallery, etc. The college library has these stories divided into seminar rooms or rooms for special purposes.

The reading space may be in one large room, with book shelves around all the walls, or the room may be divided into alcoves. Effective supervision from the desk is not essential as, in a college, it ought to be practicable to trust the students to conduct themselves and treat the books properly without direct oversight from the desk.

The college library stack is not essentially different from any other, except that there should be reading spaces sufficient for short examination of books. This can be accomplished by omitting the other end section of each alternate stack. Seminary rooms should either be on the same floor levels as the floors of the stacks or be connected with the stacks by long inclined planes, up and down which book trucks may be rolled.

Expansion must be provided for in the stack room and probably also in the reading and administration rooms. Because of this it is better to select, if possible, a location which does not require architectural façades on all sides.

In conclusion it is safe to predict that the architectural profession will design buildings adapted to the needs of college libraries as rapidly as the library profession formulate the problems to be solved.

The Library Copyright League

The report made to the members of the Library Copyright League was as follows:

The activity of the Executive committee during the past year has been in three directions:

1) In arousing the interest of librarians, and enlisting their coöperation; 2) in education of public opinion by the publication of articles in the newspapers and the distribution of literature; 3) in efforts before the Committee on patents of Congress.

Libraries have been reached in three ways: by the issue of circulars containing protests to be signed and forwarded to the members of the Committee on patents; by personal letters to those showing the greatest interest; and by publications in the *Library Journal* and in *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* giving an account of progress. We are especially indebted to the Editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* for courtesies received. We are more than indebted to the Edward Thompson Company, and to Charles Porterfield, their attorney, for suggestions, and for the free employ of a reprint of an article by Mr Porterfield. Five hundred copies of this article were mailed to members of the League, and to other librarians.

Articles on the Copyright bill have appeared in the *Boston Transcript* and *Globe*, the *Springfield Republican*, the *New York Globe*, and in several papers in the smaller cities. Reprints of some of these articles have been widely distributed.

In the work before the Committee on patents, the protests of libraries did much to prepare the way for the arguments presented by the League. Numerous letters, telegrams, signed circulars and postal card protests were received by the members of the committees on patents, and many letters were referred to them from representatives and senators not on the committees. At least 200 such letters are in the files of the committees.

The second public hearing on the bill began on December 7, 1906. Messrs

Steiner, Wellman and Cutter of your committee were present and were heard. Their arguments may be read in the printed account of the hearings. They not only presented arguments against the non-importation clause, presenting these in printed form, but also against the omission of the requirement of printing the copyright dates and against the change in the definition of copyright, which was pronounced by experts to be a clause which gave the monopoly of sale to the publisher, as well as the monopoly of reproduction of copies. In presenting these latter arguments, the executive committee acted as individuals, these points being not covered in the constitution of the League.

The attitude of the members of the committees was of course not indicated at the hearing, but the careful attention given your committee's arguments, and the uniform courtesy with which all appearing before the committee were treated, assured us that they would give careful consideration to our contentions.

With the purpose of further watching this legislation, your secretary spent about three weeks in Washington after the Christmas holidays. His time was spent in personal efforts with some of the members of the committees, and in insuring that full discussion would be brought out on the floor, should the bill be reported, and time be given to any discussion of it.

As a result of the testimony of the members of your committee at the hearing, and the other efforts made, the bill as reported eliminated all the objectionable features, except that it limited the number to be imported in any one invoice to one copy. This limitation is objectionable as causing some extra trouble in duplicating invoices, but will result in no very great inconvenience.

The Library Copyright League as constituted has no power to incur financial obligations except on the vote of the whole League. We are glad to be able to report that no such obligation has been contracted, that all expenses have been paid from voluntary subscription,

and that financial support for further operations is to some extent provided. All the expense of printing, postage, and clerical work has been paid from library subscriptions, and a balance remains for future use. All other expenses of the secretary have been provided by a private person interested in the controversy, but not connected with any library.

The fight for the rights of libraries has but begun. The publishing interests have prominent attorneys working for their interests, and will undoubtedly renew the fight in the next session. Your committee asks your continued interest and coöperation.

The action of the committee was indorsed.

American Association of Law Libraries

The second annual conference was held at Asheville, N. C., May 23-29, 1907.

Two regular and three special meetings were held, at which an average of 25 members were present, also numerous other library people who were interested.

The reports of officers and committees showed a lively interest and decided progress along many lines.

The association at its first meeting, in 1906, had a membership of 24. The report of the secretary-treasurer shows a membership at the present time of 77, with a balance in the treasury of \$35.25.

The most important matter passed upon was the report of the committee on indexing legal periodicals. Committees were appointed as recommended in this report to undertake the publication of a volume to supplement Jones's Index to legal periodicals, and to publish a quarterly journal to contain, in addition to the current index entries to periodicals, leading articles of interest to law librarians, exchange lists of duplicates, etc. The index entries are to cumulate each quarter,

the final number for the year to contain in one alphabet all the entries of that year.

It is hoped that both committees may be able to begin work at once, the first number of the periodical to be issued early in 1908.

The main topic of the second regular meeting was Law classification. Papers by W. J. C. Berry and Dr G. E. Wire on Author and Subject arrangement of text books were read, and excited lively discussion.

Charles H. Gould, of the McGill university library, Montreal, furnished an interesting paper on Canadian law libraries.

The following officers for 1907-8 were elected:

A. J. Small, president, Iowa state law library.

A. H. Mettee, vice-president.

F. O. Poole, secretary-treasurer, Association of the bar, New York city.

Executive committee, in addition to the above who serve on the committee ex officio: E. A. Feazel, F. W. Schenk, George Kearney.

It was decided to discuss at the next annual meeting, as one of the main topics, the Use of law books.

The proceedings will be published in connection with the proceedings of the American library association.

F. O. POOLE.

Meeting of Library School Faculties

At A. L. A. conference, Asheville

An informal meeting of library school faculties was called for Friday at 4 p. m., some 15 persons being present. Mary W. Plummer was made temporary chairman and J. I. Wyer temporary secretary.

The matter of representation of library school interests on the main program another year was discussed. The general opinion of those present being that the time was not yet ripe to ask for a section, but that a round table would probably meet the needs of those

most interested, and that place on the general program be requested for one paper, the subject of which should be of more general interest.

Coöperative lectures for library schools were discussed. Sentiment in favor of these was shown, but no action was taken, except to appoint a committee, of which Mr Brett was made chairman, to take the matter under consideration.

The temporary chairman and secretary were made permanent in their respective offices for one year, and at an adjourned meeting these officers were made a committee to ask for the round table and the paper on the general program, the topic for the latter being left to the decision of this committee.

National Association of State Librarians

Asheville, N. C., May 23-29, 1907

The initial session of the National association of state libraries was characterized by a large attendance, expressions of good-fellowship, pleasant greetings, thoughtful papers on timely subjects and earnest and spirited discussions. Vice-President T. L. Montgomery presided owing to the unavoidable absence of President Gillis, whose illness at this time gave rise to many expressions of sympathy. F. A. Sondley, representing the city of Asheville, greeted the association with a scholarly address and words of welcome. The report of the secretary-treasurer showed that 21 libraries had paid dues for 1907, and were entitled to membership. Alabama department of archives and history, and Oregon were the new members for the year. The income from dues was more than enough to pay all expenses and leave a satisfactory balance in the treasury.

The first paper of the afternoon was by William R. Watson of the California state library, on

The administration of the library interests of a state

Mr Watson believes that all the library interests of the state should be unified, centralized and administered from the State library. Not only would greater efficiency be secured; but the result would show more harmonious development and a curtailing of useless expense, friction and effort. The State library becomes known as the headquarters of library affairs, and is so advertised throughout the state. Gifts are increased, and it seems to be the experience in California that the average legislator finds it easier to vote for one large appropriation than for several smaller ones, which, to his understanding, are all along the same line. That the Library commission might better be a separate factor in some states, Mr Watson admitted, but where it could be brought about he advised unification of all library interests in the state, with the State library as the administrative head.

The history of legislative reference work was given by Johnson Brigham, of Iowa, in a carefully prepared paper entitled, Legislative reference work without an appropriation. While citing New York and Wisconsin as the pioneer leaders, the work done in other states was given a fair hearing. The warm discussion which followed the reading of the paper showed that the best way to do legislative reference work is the question of the hour with state librarians, that nearly all have caught the spirit of the leaders and are trying, either through the aid of expert assistance and increased funds, or with no extra help and the material already at hand to smooth the path of legislation.

The afternoon's program was closed with a report from the Committee on extension of membership and advancement of activity, given by John P. Kennedy of Virginia, chairman. The committee recommended that the energies of the association be directed toward coöperation, perfecting work on lines

already drawn and raising the standard of membership.

The second session, held May 27, at 9:30 a. m., was joint session with the A. L. A., at which time T. M. Owen, of Alabama, gave a most interesting talk, without notes, on the work of the Alabama state department of archives and history, which incidentally included not only his own work, but the library movement in Alabama.

A new note was struck in the paper entitled, *Libraries in state institutions*—The book as a tool, by Miriam E. Carey of Iowa. The idea of having the libraries in all the state charitable and penal institutions in charge of one person originated in Iowa, and about a year ago Miss Carey was appointed director. Her account of the experiments that have been tried and the results therefrom were interesting, and significant of the development of the work in the future.

The third session, at 2:30 p. m., Tuesday, was opened by reports of committees, the first one being on Systematic bibliography of state official literature. The chairman, G. S. Godard of Connecticut, asked Miss Hasse, who was present, with proofsheets of her *Index to state official literature*, to exhibit them and report on the progress of the work. Miss Hasse stated that the index for three states had been completed and was now in press, that the price would be \$1.50 per volume, and passed the sheets about so that all might see the form and character of the work.

A report was read from Charles McCarthy, of Wisconsin, chairman of the Committee to investigate and formulate the subject of publishing a quarterly periodical. The following suggestions were made: The editor should be a competent person; the question of expense might be met by making a small charge for the publication, or by coöperating with the Political science association, or the Library of Congress; the publication should be primarily, but not exclusively, bibliographical.

How should states delinquent in their exchanges be treated? was the question submitted by George S. Godard, of Connecticut, as the subject of his paper. While many states appreciate the importance of a systematic exchange, with selected depositories, there are some states which are delinquent in these exchanges, owing to the incompetency, carelessness or negligence of one individual, the librarian. After citing experiences which would justify him in dropping certain states from his list, Mr Godard still urged that it would be better for the association to take concerted action toward educating or removing the offending official, and recommending a proper person in his place.

Demarchus C. Brown, of Indiana, read the last paper of the conference on *The scope of book purchases for a state library*. The scope and character of state libraries differs somewhat, some being confined to law, and others being miscellaneous, while historical libraries, covering a slightly different field, must still be classified as state institutions when deriving their income from that source. Where the character of the books is miscellaneous, from the standpoint of the complete library, the librarian must purchase books in all departments in order that the state may carry out its purpose of general education. Mr Brown would not exclude any valuable book within the appropriation, but would aim to make a collection worthy of the commonwealth.

The conference was concluded with the announcement of the election of the following officers for the ensuing year:

President, Thomas L. Montgomery, of Pennsylvania.

First vice-president, Thomas M. Owen, of Alabama.

Second vice-president, J. M. Hitt, of Washington.

Secretary-treasurer, Minnie M. Oakley, of Wisconsin.

M. M. OAKLEY, Sec'y.

League of Library Commissions**Proceedings at Asheville conference**

The first session was held on the evening of May 24. Besides the library commissions represented by one or more persons, a large, enthusiastic audience was present. After the preliminary business the first paper called for was by M. E. Ahern of Chicago on

Some unsolved problems of the library commissions

In pointing out some unsolved problems of the library commissions the speaker referred to the devotion of the library commission workers and commended the results of their earnest work.

Among the sources from which the problems of the library commissions arise are the relations with the women's clubs, the lack of sympathy on the part of the state department of public instruction and the lack of coöperation between library and school organizations. The questions of starting public libraries in communities unable to support them, or possibly not ready for them for local reasons, and the size of a community too small for a public library, were considered.

In the matter of funds it was suggested that the commissions as state institutions, conducted under the state law for the benefit of the people of the states, should have set aside for them such per cent of the taxes as would raise sufficient funds to carry on the work undisturbed by the uncertainty and unconcerned of state legislatures.

The relation of the commission to the library boards throughout the state was touched upon, showing that the feeling of the latter, that the library commissions were disposed to intrude upon their prerogatives, was passing away.

The question of direct aid was said to be local in its application. The Western commissions have never been committed to the subsidy policy, but it is still an open question whether it is better to allow any direct aid for the establishment of a library or simply to give help and loan a traveling library.

The question of the relation of the library commission and the other state library institutions was counted an unsolved problem. It is one which library commissions have not tried to settle, but from which nearly every one runs away, the ratio of speed being in proportion to the distance from settlement. Some day a question will be presented which will have to be answered when a logical mind will point out duplication, unnecessary expense, largely a sign of weakness in organization and administration, where there is complete separation between state library, law library, legislative reference library, historical library, state university library, state normal school library and libraries in other state institutions.

Reference was made to the reading course given in PUBLIC LIBRARIES in 1906, showing that there is a widespread need among librarians, remote from library centers, for some instruction in professional reading, with the sole object of widening the horizon of the library world, and imparting a greater knowledge of the literature of libraries and a wider fraternal spirit, the lack of which constitutes a distinct want unsupplied as yet to many librarians.

The speaker referred to the tendency of the various library bulletins to develop into library journals, as being a problem. It was suggested that the library bulletins ought to be more nearly what the original meaning of the word would indicate: a brief statement of facts, issued by others for the information of the public respecting some passing event or work. They ought to contain definite utterances from library commissions, suggestive lists of new books, announcements of important events, references to sources of help within easy reach, addressed to the particular situation within the territory and supervision of the commissions. Duplication along the same lines by all these bulletins was referred to as expensive and unnecessary. If the same material was needed for all, it was suggested that a coöperative bul-

letin be provided for by the League, each commission adding to the general bulletin such items, announcements, and such points of special interest as may be particularly fitted for each locality.

The speaker also suggested that the state library commissions should send to the department of agriculture and receive in quantities the valuable publications issued by the various divisions of that department, and from a mailing list prepared by the commissions in the several states, send individuals interested, the list of the best that has been developed by experts on a thousand questions of value to persons interested in the topics discussed. Such activity as this might contribute to the solution of some other problems belonging to the commissions, not the least of which is the biennial appropriations which must now be so ardently sued for.

Miss Templeton of Nebraska gave an account of the Correspondence course of the Nebraska library commission.

Mr Hadley of Indiana emphasized the commission bulletin as a means of communication between the commission and its libraries throughout the state.

Mr Bliss of Pennsylvania said that in time State commissions would be done away with and that the work would be continued under the State libraries, and this would come to pass when the State libraries are no longer political plums.

Mr Legler of Wisconsin, commenting on the A. L. A. *Book-list*, said that a large number of readers report each month, not only from commissions and the prominent libraries of the country, but the children's books are read by expert children's librarians and technical and scientific books put into hands of known experts in their respective departments; that for the reason that the work is cooperative the annotations can not be signed.

The report of the committee on state examinations and certificates for librarians was given by Mr Hadley of Indiana and Mr Galbreath of Ohio. Mr Hadley pointed out the pros and cons of the question and Mr. Galbreath presented

definite suggestions as to examinations and grading, with a draft of a bill for the appointment of a state board of library examiners.

State certificates for librarians

In discussing the subject of State examinations and certificates for libraries, Mary W. Plummer, director of Pratt institute library school, spoke as follows:

I think I state the case fairly when I say that the library schools are in favor of anything that will add to general library efficiency. If the provision of satisfactory tests and the recommendation in a formal way of candidates experienced in actual work in libraries, are going to contribute to this efficiency, such action will mean a gain for the library schools as well as for libraries. The training of the schools must profit by anything that keeps their standards high.

I did not understand that a part of the question to be discussed here was the preparation of examinations for persons not in library work but wishing to enter upon it, and on this subject, therefore, I am not prepared to speak.

As to who is to prescribe the tests for the experienced librarian, it would seem to me best that the League of library commissions should do this, preserving a certain uniformity in all the states and allowing each commission to do its own examining and marking. As to what the tests should consist of, it would seem fair to confine them to three things: First, the candidate's general education; second, his technical and administrative knowledge; third, the general character and reputation of the candidate's actual work. As to the credentials furnished, they should specify the nature and duration of the candidate's library experience and the kind of position he or she is fitted for. The tests being the same, the marking should be sufficiently equal in the various states for the credentials of one state to pass in any other state belonging to the league.

Reports from various library commissions were received and the organiza-

tion of three new departments were mentioned, those of Alabama, North Dakota and Missouri.

In the opening of the second session, a paper prepared by Mr Kennedy of Virginia, who was not present, on the Library as a factor in securing library appropriations was read by Mr Legler of Wisconsin. In discussing this paper Miss Ahern pointed out the responsibility of a librarian in educating the community to a better appreciation of what a librarian's salary should be. A librarian often is responsible for a false economy, and a consequent lack of interest in the library on the part of the community, because she is not prepared with business ideas of compensation for services rendered. The librarian who thinks in thousands, not hundreds, in dollars, not cents, appeals to the business men, who are themselves accustomed to this method.

Mr Hadley said that effort should be made to acquaint legislators with the library conditions in the state while they are in their respective communities, before they meet in legislative session. The same is true of the city library in its relation to the city authorities.

In discussing the question, Where should state aid and a local responsibility begin in library extension work, Mr Green stated that Massachusetts towns are jealous of their local rights and it is best for towns to manage their own affairs.

Miss Stearns of Wisconsin said that the community should take the initiative, but that the commissions should create the desire. The West is not ready for compulsory libraries, but the community works on its own initiative. She thought Massachusetts communities did not appreciate their libraries, judging by appropriations given them.

Miss Isom of Oregon spoke of the success attained in the first two years of the Oregon commission; of their increased appropriation (\$2,000 to \$6,000). She paid a deserved tribute to Miss Marvin's work.

The question of commissions acting as

purchasing agents created considerable discussion. An expression of opinion by vote, showed a sentiment unfavorable to the commission acting as purchasing agent.

The third session of the League opened with a report of the publication committee by Miss Hazeltine of Wisconsin. Its provisions were adopted.

Miss Kelso of New York presented the League with a gavel of rhododendron as a souvenir of Asheville.

Mr Legler reported that the authorities at Washington had refused second class rates to the commission bulletins.

Attention having been called to the confusion arising from certain library terms having different meanings in various parts of the country, the matter was referred to the publication committee for definition.

The treasurer's report showed that all bills being paid, a balance of \$28.70 remained on hand. The following officers were elected: President, Chalmers Hadley of Indiana; first vice-president, Caroline M. Hewins of Connecticut; second vice-president, Thomas M. Owen of Alabama; secretary, Clara F. Baldwin of Minnesota; treasurer, Sarah B. Askew of New Jersey.

The fourth session opened with a discussion of the library budget by H. E. Legler of Wisconsin. Mr Legler stated that the librarian's salary should be on a basis with that of the high school teacher; that the librarian's salary should be the first item considered by the council, then additional assistance, books, fuel, light and janitor. The library budget should be carefully estimated and that sum *asked for*; the sum should not be left to be suggested by the council.

Mr Hadley stated that one of the serious problems of the budget is the maintenance of too expensive buildings. The limit of taxation for years to come has been reached. The interiors are frequently not adapted to their purpose. If the buildings were simpler, there would be more money for salaries.

Miss Kelso suggested that the commission address a communication to Mr

Carnegie, stating the difficulty of the maintenance of the libraries, as it was likely that he would remedy the difficulty.

Mr Brett of Cleveland said that 10 per cent for maintenance is not enough, because the demands of the community are too great, it is not that the building is too large. The gifts should not be lessened, but there should be a greater provision made for carrying on the work.

The motion was finally carried that the executive board of the League, communicate with Mr. Carnegie as to the administration of libraries.

The question of summer library schools brought out a thorough and animated discussion. It was finally decided that a committee be appointed to consider uniform certificates for summer schools and report to the director of each summer school not later than the midwinter meeting of the League.

Illinois Library School Association

The annual meeting and dinner of the Illinois State library school association was held at the Battery Park hotel, Asheville, May 27, 1907, in connection with the A. L. A. meeting. It was decided that the president should appoint an advisory board, representing different sections of the country, to report news items to the secretary and to arrange for local reunions at the state meetings. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Linda Clatworthy, Dayton, O.; first vice-president, Mrs Gertrude Hess, Columbus, O.; second vice-president, Alice B. Coy, Cincinnati; secretary-treasurer, Julia W. Merrill, Cincinnati; executive committee members, Georgetta Haven, Cincinnati; Edna Hopkins, Cincinnati; May Martin, Cleveland. Twenty-three gathered at the dinner table, including Miss Sharp and Miss Lindsay as guests of honor. The keynote of the toasts was regret at Miss Sharp's resignation and appreciation of her work.

JULIA W. MERRILL,
Secretary.

Notes of the A. L. A. Meeting

The North Carolina library association held a meeting at Asheville in A. L. A. week, at which there was a very creditable attendance of nearly 100 persons.

Mrs A. C. Bartlett of Chicago, who has a very beautiful place near Asheville, gave a most delightful garden party to the visitors, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

"The power of the press," if nothing more, is illustrated by the election to responsible positions of both editors of the *Library Journal* as well as the editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The class of 1907 in the Southern library school at Atlanta, Ga., was graduated the week before the meeting and the entire class and faculty attended the A. L. A. It was a goodly addition to the assemblage and made a most delightful impression.

The growing habit of Mr Secretary of utilizing the occasion of making official announcements to expostulate with the membership is one which is not altogether appreciated by his subjects. Beadlery has never been popular with an American audience.

The mountain drives and views around Asheville afforded the greatest delight to the librarians, as time permitted them to go in little parties on horseback and in carriages over the beautiful highways. Sunday found a large number at Mountain Meadow Inn, where the views are glorious and the refreshments and air were superb—an ideal place to spend vacation.

A gavel made from rhododendron wood with silver trimmings was presented to the A. L. A. by Mrs Annie Smith Ross, president of the N. C. library association, on behalf of that organization. Mrs Ross' happy presentation speech showed that the gifts of feminine eloquence and charming personality of the southern members are not confined by state lines and bid fair to con-

tinue to multiply to the great pleasure and profit of the association.

A loving cup, by popular subscription, was presented to Miss Wallace of Atlanta as a token of appreciation of her devotion to library interests in the South. Miss Wallace has been indefatigable in her efforts for 10 years to gather for that section every helpful library influence available, and it is mainly due to her efforts that the A. L. A. has held its meetings twice in that time in the southland.

Talk about men electioneering! They might have had a lesson in it from some of the women advocates who stood in the path of the ballot-box and laid hold of the unwary, or the uninformed, and by coercion or persuasion compelled the voter to show good reason why he should not allow them to mark the ballot about to be cast. Age, sex or rank offered no barrier. It is a practice which one can but wish will not become habitual.

Newcomers to the A. L. A. were very numerous this year. More than 125 persons were registered from the South—many of them for the first time. Among those whose presence was notable were Dr T. M. Owen of Alabama, Mr Gill of New Orleans, and Miss Prentiss of California. A number of very delightful additions were members of library families in the persons of Mrs N. D. C. Hodges, Mrs Lane, sr of Cambridge, Mrs Steiner of Baltimore, Mrs Stuart of Lafayette, Ind., and Mrs G. F. Utley of Florida.

Mrs H. J. Carr, who is noted for having devised every year for a long time some unique gift calculated to give pleasure to those who are fortunate enough to be numbered among her friends, had an idea this year quite in keeping with those of former years.

The souvenirs consisted of an etching on heavy cardboard, of the birthplace of the A. L. A. This was an interior view of the bay window of the old building of the Pennsylvania historical society, which has been torn down for some time.

The officers of the A. L. A. sat in this bay window during the formation of the association and thereby entitles it to be known as the birthplace of the A. L. A.

The cut was made from an illustration in "The sylvan city," and is reproduced here.



Of the 105 persons in the list of the first meeting, 17 are still members of the A. L. A., and five of those were present at the Asheville meeting: J. G. Barnwell, R. R. Bowker, S. S. Green, H. Louise Matthews and Dr E. J. Nolan.

The visit to Biltmore was a great disappointment, if nothing more, to many. Such parts of the estate of 166,000 acres as the visitors were allowed to view were nothing out of the ordinary and may be more than matched by many a drive throughout the country, for which there is no entrance fee. The family being at "the castle" at the time, the visitors were confined to the "back yard," where the principal points of interest were the piggery and an ice-cream

stand, where more or less frozen refreshment was to be had in minute portions for 20 cents a dish. A limited view of the cowsheds was permitted also.

Rutherford P. Hayes, formerly secretary and later first vice-president of the A. L. A., was a welcome visitor among the members. Mr Hayes has a delightful country place near Asheville, where many of his old friends were offered most cordial hospitality at various times during the week. While not actively interested in library work at present, Mr Hayes still holds the high esteem of those who were formerly his co-workers. While library commissioner of Ohio, Mr Hayes laid the foundation on which the traveling library system and other progressive work of the state library have been developed.

The Post-Conference Trip

At the close of the meetings of the A. L. A. at Asheville there was a divergence of lines as to subsequent travel. Quite a number proceeded direct to Norfolk and vicinity, attracted by the Jamestown exposition. Still others remained at Asheville to further enjoy the beautiful rides and walks and scenery of its environments. Many were compelled by duty to return reluctantly to their libraries.

About 70 went to Lake Toxaway, N. C., where in the beautiful Toxaway Inn, over 3000 feet above the sea level, a most delightful resting spell was enjoyed. The glorious air, the mountain scenery, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, interesting landscapes and delightful company, afforded the greatest pleasure. All turmoil and dissensions, the noise of the city and the cares of life were left behind and pure enjoyment reigned supreme.

The management of the hotel opened it up for the reception of the librarians, as the regular season does not commence until later, so that the huge hotel, with all its accommodations and conveniences,

was placed at the disposal of the travelers.

The days were full of delight in exploring and admiring the beauties of the country, and the evenings were devoted to fireside conferences, story-telling, singing and dancing. Care sat lightly on everyone and the most cordial good fellowship prevailed.

This region is a most wondrously beautiful country and fully justifies all the claims for it which have been made to the librarians since the Waukesha meeting.

Those who were brave enough to climb Toxaway mountain had such a view of the surrounding country as is not often surpassed in mountain climbing. The landscape stretches into four states with row after row of mountains in every direction, covered with every variety of verdure and coloring. Everything at the hour of sunset was bathed with the purple haze that rightly gives the region its name of the "sapphire country."

The abundance of vegetation, the wealth of flowers of every hue and description, including the glorious mountain laurel, rhododendron, wild honeysuckle and other odorous blossoms, made a wilderness of beauty and delight that tempted the city-worn travelers to forego any further effort and to remain in their midst. But, as usual, the call of duty is still the loudest note that sounds to librarians tho' it was with the greatest reluctance that the party gathered for departure on Monday, June 3. A small contingent had gone on Saturday and another on Sunday morning, but over 50 were left to enjoy the ride from Toxaway to Asheville on the beautifully decorated train. Some of the North Carolinians remained at Toxaway, and led by the general executive officer, C. E. Hovey, they had gone early to the resting place of the train and when the latter drew up to the little station in front of the Inn, the engine and cars were decorated inside and out with a profusion of mountain laurel, carrying the pleasant memories of the stay at Toxaway for the travelers and exciting the admiration and

interest of the people and places met upon the journey back to Asheville.

At Asheville the party was again divided and it was a mere remnant of the large party, though numbering perhaps a score, who journeyed under the direction of Mr Faxon to view the wonders and sights at Norfolk. This may be best left to the imaginations. The historic memories of the Virginia country, as well as places interesting because of association, were most enjoyed.

One by one the company separated, going in various directions, until suddenly one finds that the A. L. A. conference of 1907 is over and the duties of everyday life again confronts him.

TRAVELER.

It Toxaway Dull Care*

I tell of Toxaway, the beautiful Sapphire land, where the A. L. A. post-conference party once upon a time came to spend a happy week.

We came by special *Carr* from Asheville, where the landscape in its beautiful *Green*, freshened by the recent rains, never looked *Neisser*.

Mine host Alexander's greeting could not have been more cordial had we all been *Earls*. The log fire burned bright as we arrive. We already feel gay among such *Utley* superb surrounding.

*Ides*on be here as anywhere on earth.

What though the *Barr* is not yet open and the spider which frightened little Miss *Moffat* has spun his web over the padlock, we need not call our *Smith* to open it, for we brought our own *Wilson* with us and a *Steiner* two, in which to drink the toasts.

Why lament that the Inn is not yet formally open? Have we not two *Stewarts* to prepare our meals, and a *Miller* to receive the grain from the *Sheaf*.

MENU

Soup a la *Mulligantawny*. Roast, from the farms across the lake, whence *Comstock* of finest quality.

*This was read before a ball-room conference at Toxaway and excited great mirth.

Vegetables. How *Williams* (will yams) do, *Browning* before the fire till done just *Wright*?

Desert. Apple roll, made of rosy *Baldwin*, not *Corey*. Such cooking *Winsor* place in any heart.

Toxaway is famed for its scenery. Waterfalls from whose *Brinkmann* can look down hundreds of feet. Groves of mountain laurel. Who can pass a bush without wishing for a help to *Hackett*?

Red *Browne* earth which paints a border on the ladies' skirts equal to any *Dyer*.

Bird life—not many cardinals, but a little *Sperry*, and a *Martin* who *Maxeys* home among the rocks.

We need no *Goding* to *Forstall* the threatening rain and start on an exploring tour of the hills. *Hartwell* enough to withstand the variety of the air is necessary for climbers.

Early after breakfast the launch starts from the Dougherty in charge of our *Seaman*, and loaded so it cannot *Holderman* more. Landing at Toxaway wharf and guided by our charming Charlotte hostess, who never *Mrs Annie Rosstic* spots, we see the beauties of this region.

Do not neglect the walks and sights along the roads and *Lanes*. Black piglets are abundant, and when we see an old sow appear *Wagner* tail behind her, it seems like we are in *Hoagland* for sure.

Night has fallen, we gather in the office, where the fire *Burns* bright. Some are unable to describe their wanderings and do not *Dana* word. Others are too free in giving *Faxon* the region, and do not stop to *Askew* if you wish to hear.

The overtired seek to *Hyde* upon some *Sophie* to rest their tired *Leglers*. The drenched and chilly sneeze and murmur that the day was "*Sibley* fine."

A few *O'Meara* bile Dictu tell stories such as ne'er were *Ahern* before.

'Tis a story with many a *Gay* place and *Darlingto(w)*n in it, and no one to call out *Foye*!

CONDUCTOR.

Library Schools

Drexel institute

Commencement exercises were held in the auditorium of the institute on June 6. The Library school graduated 11 students: Florence Benton Custer, Madge Estelle Heacock, Helen Hill, Ella Sprague Hitchcock, Katharine Eleanor Hunt, Caroline Hermine Lauman, Jean Baker Martin, Nella Martin, Edmonia Marian Miracle, Lily Moore, Katharine Whipple Strong.

Mrs S. C. Fairchild gave two lectures to the students in May. Her first lecture was on the American library association presidents and was illustrated with lantern pictures. The second was on the Librarian's reading. On May 21 an informal reception was held in the classroom for Mrs Fairchild and Miss Price, library organizer of the Pennsylvania library commission.

Joseph F. Daniels, librarian of the State agricultural college, Fort Collins, Colo., visited the school May 16 and spoke to the class on the Personality of the librarian.

The out-of-town visits this year included the libraries of Washington and Baltimore, and later those of Trenton, Princeton and Bryn Mawr.

ALICE B. KROEGER, Director.

During A. L. A. meeting the graduates of the Drexel institute library school drove to Mountain Meadow Inn for their reunion. They were here served to a delicious luncheon by Miss Petty and Miss Smith, the two southern members. It was one of the most pleasurable meetings ever held.

F. B. R.

University of Illinois

At the thirty-sixth annual commencement of the University of Illinois the degree of B.L.S. was conferred upon 15 members of the Library school.

The degree of A.B. in library science was granted to Ada Barter, Ethel Bond and E. Glennie Hunt.

One of the interesting occasions of the commencement time was the dinner given by the senior class to Miss Sharp

and Miss Simpson in honor of the director.

Grace E. Derby, 1907, has resigned as reference assistant in the University of Illinois library and will return to the librarianship of Wesleyan college, Oxford, Ohio.

F. K. W. Drury, B.L.S., 1905, was appointed acting librarian at the June meeting of the board of trustees of the University of Illinois.

The degree of A.M., *Honoris causa*, was conferred upon Katharine L. Sharp at the recent commencement exercises of the University of Illinois.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

New York state library

At the annual meeting of the Alumni association at Asheville, May 27, the advisory committee made a comprehensive report through its chairman, Isabel E. Lord.

The chairman stated that the report was made after having had much discussion of the school and its interests with its director, E. H. Anderson, and its vice-director, J. I. Wyer jr, consulting with a number of recent graduates and a visit of three days to the school.

The reorganization of the school, begun under its new direction, is not yet complete.

Two courses in the administration of small and large public libraries, respectively, have been added. The first will be given by outside lecturers and the latter will be given by Director Anderson. A course in the senior year will be given on government documents by Vice-director Wyer. A brief course in children's work will be given every other year and will be required of both classes. All practice work, except that on reference, has been made elective in the senior class. The practice work has been divided along various lines. The course in indexing formerly required for juniors is now elective for seniors. The summer course has been resumed.

The advisory committee suggested that the money of the association instead of being devoted to providing lecturers

for the school be used for the establishment of a students' loan fund, available to seniors only, and only on recommendation of the faculty. The faculty favored the institution of such a fund.

The amendments to the constitution adopted provides that members who have not paid their dues for two full years should be dropped after notification. They may rejoin the association on payment of the annual dues for the year in which they rejoin.

It was made a duty of the advisory board to learn the condition of affairs in the New York state library school, to get the opinion of former and present students regarding its work and interests, and to suggest any changes or improvements that seem to them advisable.

C. H. Brown was elected president and B. S. Smith, secretary and treasurer for the ensuing year.

It was voted without dissent that a message of greeting, together with a report of proceedings, be forwarded to Melvil Dewey and Mrs S. C. Fairchild, former director and vice-director of the school.

Western Reserve university

The class, accompanied by Miss Whittlesey, spent May 1-4 in a visit to the Carnegie library of Pittsburg and the Reuben McMillan free library of Youngstown, Ohio. It is difficult to put in a few words the pleasure and inspiration and practical results that have come from this trip. The students were not assigned special subjects to investigate; except for general subjects outlined before starting as to points to observe, it was left to them to gather what they individually wanted. The discussion of observations which was held after the return showed that this plan justified itself, for the students evidenced a breadth and freshness of interest which was most gratifying.

Since the last report of the school in this column the following persons have visited us and spoken to the students:

On May 13, H. W. Wilson of the H. W. Wilson Company of Minneapolis

gave to the class an informal outline of the work which is involved in publishing such material as the *Cumulative Book Index* and the *Book Review Digest*. On the same day Ernesto Nelson of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, now in this country investigating educational matters, also spoke to the students.

On May 15, 16 and 17, Lutie E. Stearns of the Wisconsin free library commission gave three lectures as follows: Some western phases of library work, Opportunity of the librarian of the small library, Problem of the girl.

May 17 and 18, Mary W. Plummer, director, Pratt institute library school, gave three stereopticon lectures on the History of libraries.

These two courses were very much enjoyed by the students and the conjunction of such planets as these two visitors was made the occasion of a social time on Friday, May 17.

Julia M. Whittlesey, who for the past year has been active director of the school, has been appointed director.

WM. H. BRETT, Dean.

Michigan normal schools

A course in library methods for school teachers is to be given in the state normal schools of Michigan, June 21 to August 2, under the direction of the state board of library commissioners. The instructor at Mt Pleasant will be Ruth M. Wright; at Kalamazoo, Esther Braley; at Marquette, Olive C. Lathrop. Special lectures on Children's books and reading will be given by Ida M. Mendenhall, State normal school, Geneseo, N. Y.; Ethel R. Sawyer, State normal school, Stevens Point, Wis., and Grace E. Salisbury, State normal school, Whitewater, Wis. Instruction will be given in the form of lectures, followed by practical work with the books.

Mrs Mary C. Spencer, secretary of the Michigan library commission, has been the moving spirit in this effort at library extension, as well as many other good things in Michigan.

Library Meetings

Michigan—At the meeting of the Michigan library association, June 8, at Detroit, the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, Genevieve M. Walton, librarian, Michigan State Normal college, Ypsilanti; first vice-president, Annie A. Pollard, public library, Grand Rapids; second vice-president, Mrs Annie McDonnell, librarian, Bay City public library; secretary, Katherine G. Ling, Detroit public library; treasurer, Nina K. Preston, librarian, Hall-Fowler memorial library, Ionia.

Oklahoma—A state library association was organized in Oklahoma City public library on Friday, May 17. Ten libraries were represented by 19 persons.

Officers elected for the year are M. J. Ferguson, president, librarian of Oklahoma State university, Norman; L. S. Dickerson, first vice-president, librarian Oklahoma normal school, Edmond; Mrs. J. W. Brown, second vice-president, director of the Chickasha library board; secretary, Edith Allen Phelps, librarian of Oklahoma City public library; treasurer, Mrs J. C. Parker, librarian of Shawnee public library.

Pennsylvania—The last meeting of the season was held on Thursday, May 23, 1907, at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia, with President Mr Macfarlane, in the chair. The speaker of the evening was Dr Martin G. Brumbaugh, superintendent of schools of Philadelphia, who gave a delightful talk on a colonial Pennsylvania schoolmaster. The subject of Dr Brumbaugh's address was Christopher Dock, who conducted two schools, located in different counties, simultaneously and successfully. This schoolmaster taught in one school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and in the other on the remaining three days of the week. The pupils of one school were required to write letters to those of the other, composition being taught by this method. As Christopher Dock was of a religious turn of mind,

biblical themes were usually chosen as a subject for these letters. In addition to his duties as a teacher, Dock edited the *Geistliches Magazien*, which was published by Christopher Saur. On account of his orthodox belief the editor was opposed to making money by means of his religious writings. He composed also 100 rules for the training of children, which appeared in two numbers of the magazine. The reading of a number of these quaint and in many instances amusing rules closed the address.

The election of officers for 1907-08 resulted as follows: President, John Thomson, librarian, Free library of Philadelphia; vice-presidents, Arthur L. Bailey, librarian, Wilmington institute Free library, Wilmington, Del.; Ann C. Carson, library of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; secretary, Edith Brinkmann, H. Josephine Widener branch, Free library of Philadelphia; treasurer, Bertha S. Wetzell, Library company of Philadelphia.

A reception and tea in the upper rooms of the library followed, especial interest being added by the presence of Mr and Mrs Fairchild as guests of the club.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN,

Secretary pro tem.

Washington—The third annual meeting of the Washington library association was held at Olympia, June 5, 1907.

About 40 members attended, representing 12 libraries of the state.

The first day's session was spent in business and adjourned early to visit various points of interest. Olympia, being one of the oldest settlements in the state, has many houses and points of historical value.

In the evening Dr W. E. Henry, librarian University of Washington, delivered a lecture on Significance of the public library. At the close of the lecture a reception was given the association by the women's clubs of Olympia and the State library staff.

One of the most interesting features of the program was Miss Blanchard's storytelling and books for little ones. After

a brief discussion of the best books and most attractive editions a group of children were told stories which proved equally as interesting to the members.

The Question box brought forth many interesting discussions on Order in the library; Work of the libraries in high schools; Juvenile books; Circulation of periodicals; Disposal of the Sunday newspaper comic section; State library law.

Mr Smith of Seattle public library summed up the comic supplements as follows:

The library deals with children who do not happen to have the best of homes or the most careful nurture, so must remain on the safe side and refuse to have anything on view in the children's rooms but the very best of literature. The most weighty reason against comic supplements is that from them children are insensibly drawing their ideas of art, humor and life. For children to become infatuated with their gayly painted vulgarity is to destroy all their mental appreciation or taste for beauty in the cultivation of which lies their future moral redemption. Familiarity with what is sordid will be fatal, and it is only by appealing to the love of beauty inherent in every human soul that we can hope for the salvation of the race.

Portraying all the human relations in these absurd ways has a tendency to cheapen the genuine and real relations of life.

Racial prejudice is cultivated in the serving up of the foreigners, the colored race, the Jew and others in various attitudes. In every way the child mind is perverted and demoralized.

The Seattle public library does not let comic sections come into view and has not done so for years. It was one of the first to make a move in this direction when 12 years ago it excluded the *New York World* and the *New York Herald* on account of the yellow kid monstrosity that had begun at that time.

Officers for 1907-08 were elected as follows: President, T. C. Elliot, Walla

Walla; first vice-president, Grace E. Switzer, Bellingham; second vice-president, Rev. J. M. Allyn, Spokane; secretary, Pearl McDonnell, University of Washington, Seattle; treasurer, Josephine Holgate, State library, Olympia, Wash.

The association passed a resolution of regret that C. W. Smith, the retiring president, librarian of Seattle public library, has resigned his position and leaves the library profession.

The next annual meeting of the association will be held at Spokane, Wash., just preceding the A. L. A., in order that members may attempt both meetings.

PEARL McDONNELL, Sec'y.

Kentucky—A meeting called by the Louisville public library through its librarian, W. F. Yust, June 26-27, resulted in the organization of a Kentucky library association. The meeting was well attended by librarians, trustees, club-women and others interested. On Wednesday afternoon various departments of library work were discussed by Miss Bullitt of Lexington, Miss Spears of Covington, Miss Zachert of Louisville and others. In the evening addresses were given by Dr Enelow of Louisville and Miss Ahern, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, Chicago. A very pleasant reception followed.

On Thursday morning papers were presented by the library committee of the Kentucky federation of women's clubs, on traveling libraries. Miss Corwin of Berea college told of their work among the mountaineers. Mr Kavanagh gave a history of the State library of Kentucky. Miss Ahern conducted a question box.

W. F. Yust was elected president and Mary Pratt was made secretary. There were nearly 100 charter members.

In the afternoon visits were made under the direction of Mr Yust to the new library building, the main library and the branch libraries. The new association made an auspicious beginning.

News from the Field

East

The William Fogg memorial library at Eliot, Me., was dedicated May 20.

Howard L. Stebbins, New York, 1906-7, has been appointed assistant for the summer at Amherst college library.

Florence B. Kimball, New York, 1906-7, will classify and catalog the Public library at Groton, Mass., during the summer.

Helen Shattuck, head cataloger of Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., will leave that library as soon as she finishes teaching in its summer school, to become head cataloger in University of Minnesota.

Josephine A. Clark, librarian of the United States department of agriculture, and a graduate of Smith college and the N. Y. library school when it was at Columbia university, has just been elected librarian of Smith college.

A highly prized gift of a periodical rack and file, of antique oak, was presented to the Public library of Willingford, Conn., by Mrs Charles H. Tibbits. Another valuable gift to the library is a complete set of 10 v. of the Nature library, by Alice C. Hall. Emma Lewis is librarian.

The fifth annual report of the Derby (Conn.) public library records a circulation of 42,632 v. during the year, 42 per cent of which were children's books. There have been added to the library, by purchase and gift, 1239 v. About 85 printed signs relative to the location and hours of opening of the library have been placed, where they would be likely to attract attention among the manufacturing districts of the city. This may be given as one reason why the circulation this year has increased 30 per cent over that of last year.

The fiftieth annual report of the City library of Springfield, Mass., shows a circulation of 425,063 v., 58 per cent of which was fiction: 3632 borrowers were registered and 11,954 v. have been added

during the year, of which 1185 v. were gifts; the total number of volumes now in the library is 152,345. Frances H. Fuller, in charge of the children's department, was compelled by ill health to resign her position, which was filled by Mabel E. Ross, first assistant in the department. The fortnightly meetings of the staff have been most beneficial.

Central Atlantic

Charles E. Rush, New York, 1906-7, has been appointed assistant in the Newark (N. J.) free public library for the summer months.

Elizabeth M. Smith, New York, 1906-7, has been appointed assistant in the Newark (N. J.) free public library for the summer months.

Mary M. Shaver, New York, 1906-7, has been appointed assistant for the summer in the children's department of the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

Mrs Adele B. Barnum, formerly librarian of Niagara Falls (N. Y.) public library, was married to George R. Shepard of Niagara Falls, May 23.

Julia Eleanor King, New York, 1905-6, has resigned her position as librarian of the Bronxville (N. Y.) public library to become assistant in the Vassar college library.

Edna D. Bullock, B. L. S., New York, has been appointed to assist in cataloging and classifying the Rochester (N. Y.) Theological seminary library. For several months past Miss Bullock has been engaged in cataloging the Rockefeller institute for medical research in New York.

The Newark, N. J., library endeavors to help the patrons decide where and how to spend the summer by making a display of vacation literature in the reading room. In addition to the circulars from summer hotels, descriptive booklets issued by railroads and steamship companies may be found.

Clara W. Herbert, children's librarian of the Bedford branch of the

Brooklyn public library, has been appointed children's librarian of the Public library of the District of Columbia. She succeeds Florence J. Heaton, who on April 30 married Stuart B. Marshall.

Out of a population of 1,350,000, about 20 per cent are registered borrowers in the Brooklyn library and methods are being employed to increase it. One method, the results of which are satisfactory, is the placing in stores, factories, etc., of placards giving the location of the nearest branches and information concerning the privileges of the library.

During the summer months the print galleries of the New York public library, in the Lenox library building, will be given over to an exhibition of etchings, lithographs and other prints by contemporary German artists. With a few exceptions, the prints shown represent original work, that is, not reproductions of paintings. They will illustrate one way in which the spirit of modern German art seeks expression. And they also form interesting examples of technical dexterity and experiment.

The eleventh annual report of the board of trustees of the Queens Borough library, city of New York, gives 82,749 v. in the library, with a circulation of 415,268 v.

Six new branch libraries have been built from the Carnegie fund. The development of Greater New York in this particular section opens up wonderful opportunities for the Queens Borough library. All of these branches have been equipped with Library Bureau fittings and furniture. The report contains good illustrations of the floor plan and interior of the two most recent branches.

The James V. Brown library at Williamsport, Pa., was formally opened June 18. It is built almost entirely of white marble after approved design and plans by E. V. Seeler of Philadelphia. It is furnished with handsome, specially designed Library Bureau furniture and lighted and decorated in keeping with the purposes of the build-

ing. The children's room, with its frieze of Abbey's Holy Grail, open fireplace and large round table (to carry out the Arthurian atmosphere), is unusually beautiful. The gift represents \$450,000, one-half of which is an endowment fund. O. P. Howard Thomson is librarian.

The Binghamton, N. Y., public library has been exhibiting a collection of butterflies, owned by Addison Ellsworth. The countries of the world, notably the tropical are represented in the 20,000 specimens, beautifully mounted and properly classified and labeled. It is one of the best and largest collections in the United States. The library has begun with success a series of history talks at the library to history classes in the public schools. The series includes the Iroquois league, Capt. John Smith and Jamestown, the Sea kings, and Stories from New York state. The Timothy Cole collection of wood engravings, loaned by the Century Company of New York, were exhibited at library in April. The common council has made an additional appropriation of \$2000 for the library for the coming year, or a total of \$9500.

South

The Young men's library will open July 1 at Augusta, Ga. The library will be in charge of H. W. Carr.

Central

Ada McCarthy, Wisconsin '07, has been elected librarian of Rhinelander, Wis.

Seth Lowe has been elected librarian at Greensburg, Ind., to succeed the late Andrew Short.

Mr and Mrs Crunden of St Louis are at Lake Placid Club, N. Y., where they plan to spend the summer.

Corinne A. Metz, New York, 1907, has been appointed librarian of the Public library at Washington Courthouse, O.

Purd B. Wright, librarian of St Joseph, Mo., has been appointed by Gov.

Folk on the new Library commission of that state.

Alice Matthews, Illinois, 1903, has been engaged as a cataloger for the library of the State normal school, Warrensburg, Mo.

Miss Allyn of the Cleveland public library has been elected librarian of the Public library of Honolulu and begins her work July 1.

The Wyoming branch of the Cincinnati public library was totally destroyed by fire May 25. Preparations for rebuilding have already begun.

The annual report of the Public library at Stevens Point, Wis., records number of books, 6147; 5369 borrowers and a circulation of 70,281 v. Mollie L. Catlin is the librarian.

Arne Kildal, New York, 1907, will have charge of the instruction in reference work and subject bibliography at the Winona technical institute summer school for librarians, July 8 to August 17.

The corner stone of the new Carnegie library building of Monmouth (Ill.) college was laid June 5 with impressive ceremonies. The principal address was delivered by Dr. T. H. Hanna of Steubenville, Ohio.

The St Louis public library has just finished its competition for the choice of an architect of its new central building. Out of nine invited competitors Cass Gilbert of New York was judged to have submitted the most worthy design, and he was therefore appointed architect by the library board. The competitors were: New York, Cass Gilbert, Carrere & Hastings, Palmer & Hornbostel, Albert R. Ross.

St Louis, Barnett, Haynes & Barnett, Eames & Young, William B. Ittner, T. C. Link, Mauran, Russell & Garden.

Carrie E. Scott, New York, 1905-6, has been appointed assistant state organizer for the Public library commission of Indiana. For the past year Miss Scott has been connected with the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh as

assistant to the supervisor of work with schools and children.

Pacific Coast

George T. Clark, for many years librarian of the Public library at San Francisco, Cal., has been appointed librarian of the Leland Stanford university, California.

Frances S. C. James has become a member of the cataloging staff of the University of Washington library, Seattle. Miss James received her A. B. and M. A. degrees at University of Wisconsin and has been a cataloger in the Wisconsin historical library for the past six years.

C. W. Smith, who has had charge of the Seattle (Wash.) library since 1895, has tendered his resignation as librarian to take effect in September. When Mr Smith became librarian, the library had only 10,000 v., now it has 90,000. There were then four assistants, working on half time, while at present the library has a staff of 70 persons. In 1895 its income was \$7300; this year it was a total of about \$80,000.

Mr Smith has for a long time desired to enter active life in the practice of law. He feels that he has done his duty in caring for the library until it has been properly housed in a magnificent building and is in fair way to keep pace with the growth of the community.

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